



Swanton Morley Village Hall

Report 2023/24

Swanton Morley Village Hall had a slightly quieter year in 2023/2024 due to the rising cost of living.

Over the last twelve months the Village provided a venue for 5 weddings, 52 private parties, Tractor Rally, Wellbeing fayres and the Gardening club show to name a few.

The Community café ran every Tuesday morning and continues to provide coffee/tea and cake. We are soon to welcome our new volunteer who will be running this.

The Village Hall bar lounge has had a makeover this year, it is now freshly painted and soon to be the home of the portrait of King Charles III. We still have the comfy corner in the bar area, and this can be used by anyone that would like to pop in for a bit of support as the office staff are mental health champions and have the tools to signpost to the right agencies if you are in need.

The Village Hall were also a lucky recipient of a £2,000 warm hub fund during the winter period, this enabled us to open up the warm space four days a week and provide a hot drink in a warm and welcoming environment.

The Village Hall have also had new hand driers, a new distribution board, key entry system, fire alarm panel and a new till. All of these improvements have been necessary for the maintenance and upkeep of the building.

The Village Hall were also very pleased to announce £9,973 in grant funding from the National Lottery Awards for All. This enabled the VH Trust to cover the cost to have all of the lighting in the Village hall upgraded to LED.

Following the report in 2023 about the need to replace the boiler system, I am pleased to report that with thanks to the Parish Council, the Village Hall has now had this work completed.

Future projects that are planned for the Village Hall include the main hall floor restoration and redecoration of the ladies and disabled toilets.

Mr Atterwill and the Clerk have also carried out a site visit with a local company to discuss the possibility of installing solar panels.

There will also soon be fencing installed along the boundary of the village hall field and Harkers Lane. This is to try and deter people using the cut throughs to the village hall field which have damaged over 40 saplings that were planted along this boundary and deter residents from exercising their dogs on the football pitches as unfortunately over the last 12 months there have been a number of reports from the football coaches that there has been a significant amount of dog mess on the pitches that they have had to clear up before training or a cup game.

Due to the cancellation of the bonfire night last year, the Village Hall Trust have now adopted an event management plan and policy to help our larger hirers run these events safely. The information required is all detailed on our website.

Thank you to our regular hirers, private hirers and everyone who has continued to support the village hall over the past year – we hope to see you again very soon.

Kelly Pickard

Clerk