

Clapton and Wayford Village Hall

Chairman's report for the year May 2025-May 2026.

This year has seen the hall run its usual events such as jumble sales, coffee mornings, two talks, a quiz, a Christmas concert and a harvest supper and auction. There are regular users such as mah-jong, film club, Knit and natter, yoga, two bands, and table tennis.

The local community has hired the hall for children's parties and birthday celebrations. Certainly, bookings do seem to be increasing. In addition, the NHS has hired the hall for several training sessions.

Both local parish councils have their bi monthly meetings at the hall, and I should like to thank both councils for their continuing support, also for the support from both Unitary Councillors

This hall has many fine facilities such as a large carpark, dedicated disabled parking, hearing loops in both the large main and smaller meeting rooms, a well-equipped kitchen, wi-fi, a large screen and overhead heating.

The Trustees of the hall ensure that it is well maintained, and its administration adheres to all required policies and procedures.

All our dedicated committee members have ensured that this hall remains open and available for use in and by the community and their continuing hard work is to be commended.

There is an events sub-committee who aim to ensure that a wide variety of events are offered throughout the year. The notice boards are situated where people can see events taking place at the hall and we have found this to be an invaluable place to advertise such events.

The hall website has been reviewed and renewed.

Our most immediate challenge is to encourage the local community, not only use the hall but to volunteer to ensure some events can take place. A good example of this are the three successful jumble sales which have taken place over the past year. The numbers of helpers at these not only before the day by setting up the hall, accepting jumble both before and after the day, manning the different tables, and finally clearing away and disposing of unsold items. There are several new volunteers, especially for this event which has greatly eased the pressure on the regular helpers.

Two of our long-standing committee decided to retire from the hall management committee.

Reg Mussett has for the past 25 years devoted many hours to ensure that the regular maintenance of the internal and external building has been completed in a timely manner. His experiences gleaned during his working life has been invaluable. He will be greatly missed, however I am sure he will still be a regular at our coffee mornings, where he enjoys an egg and bacon roll.

Adrienne Pyke has for many years held the responsibility of Bookings Secretary. She also is part of our Events group where clearly one of her strengths has been a perfect Front of House host. She will remain part of our Events Group, whose aim is to organise one event per month. During 2026 this has become challenging. Changing commitments, ageing, with its limitations and health issues have led us to reassess what we can and would like to achieve.

This being said our monthly Coffee mornings certainly have been a success in bringing together people, and it is pleasing to see so many chatting, enjoying the refreshments on offer and just spending time together.

Julia Borland
Chairman