



The Village Hall with Endless Possibilities

## **An introduction from the Trustees**

Since the AGM in June 2023, I have been acclimatising to my new role and trying to get a grasp on the intricacies of running a village hall. The learning curve is, and continues to be steep, but I am rising to the challenge!

Let me introduce myself...I have lived in Curdridge since 2008, moving with my husband due to his work being based down here. Our daughter goes to the local Primary School. Over the years, we have spent a lot of time at the Reading Rooms with her and our two Irish Red Setters.

I am very passionate about the buildings and grounds and hope that the new team of Trustees can really make a difference. We have a team of five Trustees. Bill and Larry have both been Trustees for a while. Chloe joined at the same time as me and Harriet came on board earlier this year. Together, I think we will make a formidable team!

There is no doubt that the next 12 to 18 months are going to be a challenge. The Charity is in a very precarious financial position, and we need to work hard to change this to secure a long-term future for the buildings and grounds.

Ideally, the income from hirers would cover costs so that the Charity breaks even. Additional income from fund-raising events would go towards projects to improve the facilities for those who use them. Sadly, this is not currently the case. The Charity is **only** surviving because the fund-raising income tops-up that from hirers, but we are still not managing to break-even. This leaves very little to spend on improving the facilities as our savings are reducing year upon year to bridge the gap that is left.

The building and grounds need significant work. We have limited savings that can be used for some of this but it is not sufficient to get the building in the shape that it needs to be in.

The good news is that we are welcoming new hirers, both regular and ad-hoc all the time and, local residents are starting to book the hall for more functions. As long as this continues, the future of the village hall looks brighter. However, there is a long way to go and very little time before our savings run out.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF OUR ICONIC, MUCH-LOVED VILLAGE HALL!**

The term 'iconic' in relation to buildings is defined as "widely known and acknowledged especially for distinctive excellence." We are some way off the mark for the latter, however, I am incredibly excited to play a part in ensuring that the Reading Room reaches its potential as 'the village hall with endless possibilities' and becomes the hub of the village that local residents and businesses want to come to. I hope that you will follow us on our journey!

Vanessa - Chair of Trustees