

West Wratting Village Hall Update for the Village Meeting May 2025.

Building Maintenance

The North West corner/brickwork was repaired and the roof trusses strengthened. For 2025 we need to install new drainage at the rear of the Hall, as previous work has failed, and carry out repairs to the roof.

Building Improvement

Through a successful bid and grant from the Wind Farm Trust we were able to complete an earlier commitment (2022/23) and install our “acoustic improvement plan”. The panels were installed in December 2024. We also made a successful bid to the Government’s DCMS scheme for an Independent Energy Assessment/carbon reduction scheme. We found the report to be difficult to apply but it does include valuable information for future use/bids. We have excellent quotations for Solar PV with battery storage but need to gain access to the Hall roof space to assess load bearing requirements.

Bookings and Hire

Regular bookings are stable but lower than in earlier years. We lost two FitSteps sessions per week from our calendar but we do now have Yoga sessions, led by Gemma; thanks to her and a local resident for helping us get this initiative off the ground.

Events

Events have been turbocharged by the newly formed working group. The Hall hosted an “Auction of Promises” for the PCC (Church) with several committee members helping out, approx. £7.5k being raised. Then the Hall Committee suggested restarting the Harvest Supper tradition which was done in conjunction with the PCC with great success. Then a wine tasting which went down well (as did the wine) and a race night was great fun and noisy! There is Bingo, a traditional curry and Indian music night, a lottery and more planned for the rest of 2025.

Administration

All policies were reviewed and updated. In particular, formal changes were made to reflect findings from the Grenfell Tower enquiry. The Lamb Yard/Hall boundary was agreed and fencing installed. Working with the Parish Council we are in the process of correcting the existing Hall Title Deeds to reflect the correct Parish Council “Custodian” position and arranging a new Title Deed for the land on the Eastern Boundary, given to us by Dyason, the Lamb Yard developers.

Finance

Our financial position to date is better than last year however we have a large expense coming for the roof and drainage work. Our year end is September 2025 so a detailed report cannot be given at this time. We have received a number of generous donations to the charity for which we are very grateful. We do not receive any regular financial support and given the lower level of hiring, the “Events” group work hard to help us pay our way, this group, and the entire committee, work tirelessly together to make the hall available for public use and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all very much for their time and efforts.

Martin Davey

Chair