



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



AGM

Tuesday, 8th MAY

6.00 pm

at the Village Hall

all parishioners of Downham And Twiston are eligible and most welcome to attend

The Committee

At the AGM in April, Shaun Roney was re-elected as chairman. The rest of the committee, including the Hon Chairman (Shaun Roney), Hon Treasurer (Brian Lewis) and Hon Secretary (Olivia Assheton) were re-elected en-bloc. Jason Addy was elected as a new committee member. Shaun Roney was thanked for his ongoing and excellent work both as chairman and bookings secretary.

The committee met six times in 2017

The Building

There were attempts to address the ongoing damp problem to the West/North facing walls including a major redecoration of the affected areas (kitchen hallway, downstairs disabled toilet, Green Room) with breathable paint by committee members. All the Green Room curtains and cushions were dry cleaned at the same time. Quotes were obtained for re-pointing the wall. The upstairs Ladies toilet was redecorated.

Sue Hinder, Barbara Lewis and Clare Ashworth arranged new curtains for the downstairs meeting room. Four new Gopak tables were purchased for the Hall.

A donation of £250 from the Lund family in memory of Norman and Brenda was used to buy two good quality hardwood seats with plaques.

Website

The Village Hall website was rewritten as part of a revamp of the general village website with the whole exercise being part-funded by the PCC. It has been well received and hire enquiries have increased as a result. Many of these are directed to the newly-set up email address which automatically transfers enquiries to the Secretary's email address. A number of enquiries about hiring the camping barn and getting married in the church are also being received by the new email address. Amy Naylor is also running facebook and instagram pages to publicise village events, alongside the website.

Use of the Village Hall

Community events organised by committee members in the year included a Ceilidh (February), 60's night (April), Octameron Concert (September with PCC), Magic Evening and Supper (October), Bonfire Night (November). All events made a small profit – typically around £200.

Stage II Downham put on 'A Servant to Two Masters' as their Spring play and 'The Weekend' by Michael Palin in November.

History Group met seven times in the year and Coffee Club every month, with the May meeting supporting Helen Addy's 'Cross Channel' swim for Rosemere. WI met eleven times, holding their AGM at the Hall in June and carrying out their annual weeding of the car park in the Autumn. Garden Club met eight times and had their annual Chairman's walk and supper in May, as well as organising their Show in August.

External hirers included the Forest of Bowland AONB (workshop); the Childrens' Society (clothing sale), Pre-School and the Preston Royal Morris Dancers did two 'taster' events. Ribble Valley Dog Training used the hall 35 times and other users included Blackburn Artist Society and a number of private bookings for weddings and birthday celebrations.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at the Hall in September and it was used as the polling station for the General Election on 8th June.

Open Gardens

The Hall Gardens were opened in aid of Crossroads and the Village Hall, with a Magic Group performing free on both days. £6,600 was raised and split equally between the two charities. This represented an increase of more than 20% in profit over the previous year, with no increase in ticket prices.

The Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is published by St Leonard's church and is delivered to every house in the Parish. It reports upon and advertises Village Hall news and events. The Village Hall Committee is therefore pleased to sponsor two issues a year.