

Date: 03/05/2022

Yearly Report for Gillingham Parish Council 2022

This year has been less eventful for the village hall and we seem to have everything in place since the change in the committee. The commitment from a very small committee has continued for which I am personally very grateful, but we are in need of new members if we are to continue to run smoothly and would welcome any interest.

I am pleased to say that the hall is been hired regularly by Gillingham Early Years and Champion Martial Arts. We have weekly classes of Yoga, Pilates, Dance Fit and a photographer using the hall as a studio for family photo shoots. We are also pleased to say that the Bridge Club has also returned and we are seeing an increasing amount of parties and events being booked too.

We are supporting Gillingham Primary Academy with their fundraising by providing a venue for them.

The Sunday coffee mornings are very successful, with people supporting us from across the Waveney Valley. We have reduced these to 2 a month as the hall is booked regularly on a Sunday. If anyone would like to volunteer at the coffee mornings or bake a cake now and again we would love to hear from you.

We have applied to become a Terracycle point, which will enable us to recycle many of the household items currently not available to recycle at home. By doing this we are helping the environment, improving our carbon footprint and supporting local charities with the money raised. If the Parish Council would like to be involved with this project it would be great.

We have been investing in the hall again this year, the foyer and cloakrooms have all been decorated. We have replaced the windows and installed patio doors which enhances the hall no end. The blinds have also been replaced. We have had cavity wall insulation fitted in the main hall to try and reduce our heating costs.

We are currently looking at having solar panels fitted, our electricity has increased tremendously, on average £620 a month and we hope to be able to secure a grant to do this project to help with the increasing costs.

We are also looking to have sound proofing boards fitted in the near future.

I am glad to say that Gillingham Village Hall has had a much better year and hopefully has survived Covid-19. We do have our concerns about the huge increase on electricity and with further increases expected in October we will have to run carefully.

Lesley Porter, Chair Gillingham Village Hall.