



Sunnyside Hall

Rusthall Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8RA

Company No: 4774580

Registered Charity No: 1101737

Trustees' Annual Report 2023

The hall continues to be a hub for many village groups and this year saw the formation of a monthly Repair café. Since August 2022 we have assembled as many skilled volunteers as we can find in the hall for a few hours once a month on a Saturday to fix whatever broken items are brought in. No charge is made for the repairs but donations are encouraged, and these go towards paying the notional hall hire fee. Uptake has been slow, but as there remain a few keen volunteers, no significant financial outlay, a reduced pile of things for landfill, and a bunch of happy customers, the Trustees plan to continue.

The long-planned building extension project has moved closer to fruition with the award of one grant and pending applications for another that would bring the cost down to a figure within the means of the hall. Planning permission remains valid for the rest of the year so we are hopeful of being able to break ground in the coming months. We still hold grant money that will be used to introduce a badminton group once storage facilities are enhanced.

The number of weekend children's parties we hosted increased a little from the immediate post-pandemic period and the facilities of the hall are frequently praised in reviews on Google and HallsHire.com

One such amenity is the newly introduced lighting console which enables non-technical hirers to select several party scenes. This, together with use of the sound system does set us apart from other halls in the locality.

The Community Cinema continues to use our venue for its very successful fortnightly shows; and this year began screening National Theatre Live recordings on Sunday afternoons.

Another on-going success is the table tennis group who have enhanced their facilities with the addition of a training robot to help players improve their shots under a variety of conditions. This happened at much the same time as the per-player fees were increased to better match the regular hall hire fee. Fortunately, there was hardly any drop in numbers and so the hall is on target to balance this section of the books in the coming year as we complete the funding of the table tennis tables previously bought.

This year saw the introduction of 21 solar panels on the roof, thanks to a grant offered by the Kent County Councillor for West Kent, James McInroy. Although the electricity meters are currently too old to allow excess energy to be sold back to the grid, we have been able to generate 88.5% of our electricity usage since the panels were installed on 14th April 2023 leading to a commensurate heavy reduction in utility bills.