



Sunnyside Hall

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

Company No: 4774580

Registered Charity No: 1101737

Trustees' Annual Report 2024

Our hall continued to thrive for much of the past year: every one of the independent reviews from hirers gave 5* compliments that concentrated on the new lighting console, sound system and cleanliness of the hall. The first full year of operation of the solar panels and battery storage saw a reduction in energy costs of 55% despite continued price increases per unit consumed.

In the previous year the Repair Café was formed, and this year saw it flourish, although extra volunteers are always welcome. In June Eugene Gardner attended the village fete with a promotional display of the hall and sponsored groups run by him with Toby Odone: Repair Café, Table Tennis, and Community Cinema. In May we formed a regular badminton and pickleball group which occupy the hall for two hours each Friday. Early signs are that this will be a popular event.

At the end of the calendar year we said goodbye and thanks to Trustee Kevin Powley who was one of our founding Trustees and a long-term representative of the Scouts on our board.

After a long but ultimately successful fund-raising campaign, in February we were in a position to begin building the extension that would replace most of the external storage sheds. This was completed just 7 weeks later ahead of schedule and at the budgeted price. The rear external space was then ready to be turned into an attractive and safe recreation area for families and children.

On 22nd April the Trustees held a meeting where it was decided that the hall's only internal CCTV camera was to be disabled at all times when the hall was in use. The concern was one of privacy and an absence of signage. Eugene was the only dissenter from the majority view, saying that it was an essential tool for helping the keyholder ensure that the Terms of Hire were complied with, offered protection to vulnerable people enabling substantiation of allegations, and as a deterrent against bad acts.

At the same time remote access to the external CCTV was removed from Eugene. That was the only place where hall entry security code use was logged and where the ability to set/unset and receive alarms was possible.

Eugene, who held an enhanced level DBS certificate and had been the keyholder for 50 of the year's 56 events (excluding Trustees' private hall use) then stood down from the keyholder role. There being no other Trustees willing to take on the role, weekend children's parties were then discontinued for local families. Income from weekend hall hires to that point was £4,548.