

Annual Report
Wrentham Village Hall Committee
2025-26

Village Hall Committee Members – I would like to thank the committee members for the time and effort they put in on behalf of the village to ensure the safe and efficient running of Wrentham Village Hall. There have been some major changes to the team since Nigel Drane retired from the committee at the AGM in October 2025 to spend more time with his family. We owe a great deal to Nigel and thank him for both his dedicated leadership and for his work as a committee member caring deeply about the effective running of this special village resource. Special thanks should go to Sue Billington for her busy dual role as Treasurer and Bookings Clerk. Steve Billington and Tony Robinson are regularly on hand to keep an eye on practical repairs and maintenance. Ann Clifford and Sheila Kelly ensure that the kitchen is kept clean and tidy and well-stocked with the necessary cleaning items. We have welcomed 3 new committee members to our team namely Jane Samkin, Christine Scriven, and Gerda Gibbs, in addition to Sue Childs our link officer with Wrentham Parish Council. We meet officially every 2 months but we're always ready to cope with the day to day running of the hall.

Bookings – We have a very wide range of activities that take place in the hall, kitchen, games room and meeting room, ensuring that the hall is well used. A big thank you to Rita Perry and the rota of helpers on Monday mornings for running the Time4Tea sessions, welcoming local residents in for a “cuppa and a chat”. More active bookings include badminton, short mat bowls, ballroom dancing and keep fit. Quieter sessions include craft and monthly Ladybird meetings, while music is represented by the weekly rehearsals of the Wrentham Band and the Singing for Fun group as well as the Ukulele sessions. Our facilities are also regularly used by “Lapwing” a specialist education company. In addition there are dance and performing arts classes for students aged 2 years to adults. On the last Saturday of the month cinema-goers are well catered for by “Wrentham Cinema”, a popular village hall event. The cinema has just celebrated its 10th birthday! We only charge £5 hoping to make this an accessible evening out. I thank the team of helpers who show the films, serve refreshments and the advertising team who ensure that every

household in the village receives a quarterly flier advertising the films to be shown. A new initiative funded by Suffolk County Council called “Fit Villages” has enabled us to start up a new weekly class of “Chair Yoga”. There is a wide range of other bookings – private parties, 45s T dancing, local choir and orchestra rehearsals, plus meetings for example AGMs of local groups, vaccination sessions, and in October 2025, 33 local residents attended an excellent CPR training delivered by a volunteer from East Anglian Air Ambulance. We have also enjoyed and benefited financially from concerts given by “Wrentham Band”.

Wrentham Village Hall “One Hundred Club” lottery – nearly 100 residents take part in this fund-raising initiative in aid of the village hall with quarterly prizes for the lucky winners. Thank you to the organisers and participants.

Wrentham Parish Council - We are very grateful that the Parish Council recognises the role of the hall in village life and provides essential financial support as and when necessary.

Wrentham Village Hall and grounds – We thank Jackie Wynn for all her hard work maintaining the flower beds – a colourful welcome. We thank paid and unpaid workers for strimming along the river banks and cutting the grass. I would also like to thank Tyler Harber and Chloe Utting, the hard-working cleaning team for doing such a brilliant job of keeping the hall clean.

Main Projects done this year – Sheila Kelly, helped by Ann Clifford, has done a splendid job of re-framing village photographs to be displayed in and around the hall. The guttering has been cleaned and repairs made where necessary. Our large willow tree needed emergency lopping work. The installation of new lighting in the stairwell by the stage has made this dark corner much safer. A concrete slab has been laid outside in readiness for the erection of a small shed. This shed will provide much needed accessible storage for useful but bulky items of little financial worth. In July 2025 the hall was re-surfaced.

Future Projects – We would like to upgrade the toilet facilities – an expensive project that will need careful planning and special funding. Plans are in place to celebrate the 40th birthday of the opening of Wrentham Village hall. We thank Wrentham Parish Council for help funding this community event which will take place on Sunday 28th June 2026 and we thank in advance the users and hirers of the hall for their support.

Financial Situation - At the moment we are financially secure.

Fiona Anderson

Chairlady

12/04/26