

Umberleigh Village Hall Chair's report April 2023

I am pleased to say that during 2022 the village hall continued to return to normality. Bookings increased and there were a number of fund raising events. We started off the year with the Roving Crows, an excellent evening as usual, we hope they will return soon. For the Jubilee we liaised with our close villages to ensure there were no overlaps, Umberleigh held a very popular big breakfast. We had a summer barbecue followed by the 100th Annual Garden show. Once again Linda did an amazing job of organising this, there was more for the children to do and we also introduced a small car boot sale to keep people interested. The show raised record takings this year. The annual Christmas Party was also very well attended with a good turnout to help with preparations the day before. The major fund raising events were the four antiques fairs organised by Jane with a band of helpers.

The village hall has been working with the school to provide a car park with a play area beside it for use by the whole village. This is now complete, trees have been planted and even more equipment has been installed.

Very recently the Parish Council decided to move the venue for their March meeting to our hall. We were delighted to see a large turnout of people from Umberleigh with a healthy discussion about issues in the Umberleigh part of the Parish. We hope that more meetings may be held here in the future.

It has been lovely to see the wide variety of events the hall is being used for. Art classes are amazingly popular, a new yoga class has started. We have also had pig racing, bingo, toddlers play, band and choir practices. Due to the growth in numbers at the school they have also been using the hall more. From music assemblies to after school archery, gymnastics and of course the school play. It was also good to have the really useless theatre company back with this year's pantomime.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for volunteering to help the hall, to everyone who has helped with the events we have organised, helping on the day, setting up, clearing up or baking cakes. Thank you to those volunteers who help with the maintenance of the hall, spring cleans and autumn clear ups. Thank you also to everyone who attends the events we organise, without you all we would just have a building.