

Hermitage Village Hall CIO report to Hermitage PC APA

20th April 2023.

The hall has been rather busy since my last report to the PC hosting a variety of events including beer and food pairing where local brewer Richard Marshall provided a selection of beers and Jane Staunton was challenged with the task of pairing the beers with foods that complemented their flavours. It was a popular evening and enjoyed by those that attended.

The main event was of course the celebration of our late Queens Jubilee in June. The weather held up, thankfully and a good day was had by all! The PC did a great job in conjunction with the VH in the organising of variety of events to keep everyone entertained throughout the day. It was amazing to see the hall being used to its full potential and bringing the community together on such a momentous day. A very generous donation of endless cake was supplied by a fellow trustee, my husband, along with free hot drinks. We lost count of how many cups of tea we served, but we got through 28 pinks of milk on the day!

The trustees show cased their Jubilee gin especially distilled by craft distillers Hawkridge just up the road in Compton. A thankyou to those that purchased a bottle or two and can I take this moment to let you know we have some left if you would like to re stock.

Summer bought our outside Watermill production of Camp Albion, which was based on the development of the A34 bypass back in 1995. The weather was not kind that evening, cold and wet, so a huge thankyou to those who braved it!

We held our Oktoberfest again in October which proved to be very popular by all those that attended.

With Christmas around the corner Emma Chan organised an event at the hall with shopping stalls, sweet treats, and some wonderful decorations. The VH trustees served mulled wine and snacks on the evening. The grand finale was the laser light show that lit up the dark December sky.

It would be great to see this event take place every year which brings me on nicely in thanking the PC from myself and my fellow trustees for the very generous grant of £1,000.00 to put towards more tables and hopefully a real-life Christmas tree to be planted at the hall.

The car park continues to be problematic at times when both halls are booked for events and hopefully we can work together to solve this issue and work out a solution to enlarge the car park.