

Knowstone Parish Hall Annual Activity Report

May 2022 to May 2023

This has been an excellent year for the Parish Hall Committee with two major events successfully delivered; The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Coronation Afternoon Tea party.

This Platinum Jubilee / Coronation year has been a busy and successful for the Parish Hall team. After the two quiet pandemic years we were back to a full schedule of activities for our community.

We are fortunate to have committed members in our team who are willing to take time from their busy lives for the benefit of their community. We had had a few changes to the team. Ken Dykes, Sheila Bray and Jeanie Hicks have left the team. I am sure you will join me in thanking Ken, Sheila and Jeanie for their service to our community. Fortunately new members have joined; Kim Wootten and Kim Newton. The current Committee members are:

Chairperson:	Tiina Paju-Pomfret
Treasurer:	Wendy Sweet
Secretary:	Liz Barrett
Members:	John Pomfret
	David Barrett
	Catherine Whatcott
	Phil Dey (maintenance)
	Gill Smith (communications)
	Martin Smith (maintenance)
	Kim Wootten (cleaning)
	Kim Newton

During the past year we successfully delivered the following schedule of events:

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
Coffee mornings	These are always well received with delicious cakes on offer. Our four charity ones were for the Devon Air Ambulance, Ukraine, Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief and a local charity . The rest were for our own hall funds.
Games Afternoon	We tried a new idea for a family friendly games afternoon and provided a variety of games along with Scalextric. Sadly, this did not draw much audience.
Village Platinum Jubilee Celebration (Instead of the Summer Fair)	Without a doubt this was our biggest event of the year with a Parish Walk (people, dogs, horses) and the main event; Street Party which ended up being in the Hall as weather was cold and rainy. The main event also contained competitions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best decorated front of house (judged by Reg Howe) • Photograph of Knowstone now (public vote) • Best Jubilee table centre piece (judged by Mark & Sarah Dodson) • Jubilee themed cupcake decorations (judged by Mark & Sarah Dodson) All residents under 17 years received a souvenir mug. Lots of fun was had during the celebration and I can say that the Hall team can be proud of events well organised.
Quiz Night	Another new event suggested and hosted by Kevin and Soo Tompkins from the village. The night was a great success with a good turnout, lots of competitiveness and laughter.
Christmas Bingo	As our traditional Christmas Bingo was back again we had a record number of people turn up and fill the Hall. Somebody was heard commenting that the Knowstone one has the best prizes – our special meat boxes were packed with delicious local meat thanks to the Stanburys, Caves and Swanzys! A great evening of Christmas Cheer.

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
Skittles Evening	Skittles evenings are back on the schedule for the wintertime and have proven to be very popular with Natasha's bar
Beetle Drive	Another old favorite was back on the schedule. Fun and sausage casserole was enjoyed by everyone
Coronation Afternoon Tea	The team pulled out all the stops to organise a memorable Coronation Afternoon tea to celebrate HM King Charles' Coronation. The Parish Council had kindly offered to sponsor the event. Almost 70 parishioners attended, and they enjoyed a prosecco/wine toast to the King, sandwiches, scones with jam & cream and cupcakes.
Together with the Parish Church Committee	
Harvest Festival supper and auction	Another traditional event was back, and the team helped with setup, decorations, food and service. The Harvest was well attended, and delicious food enjoyed by all.
Christmas Afternoon Tea & Fair	We helped raise funds for the Parish Church and had a very successful day offering lovely cakes & refreshments. Thelma's Christmas stall also did very well with her lovely wreaths and other decorations.

Plans going forward include the following events:

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
Ceilidh 19th May	For the first time in the hall's history, we are organising a Ceilidh with Natasha's bar and outside catering van. The tickets have almost sold out.
Quiz Night 17 th Jun	Back by popular demand hosted by Kevin and Soo
Autumn Fayre and Craft and Produce Show 2 nd Sep	Due to the coronation celebrations, the team decided to organise an autumn fayre instead of the usual summer one.

We have started to use the Knowstone Facebook (FB) page for advertising and sharing posts across similar local FB pages. We also now have a dedicated person looking after the communications and advertising.

The Hall is also used for regular events organised by various parishioners. These include:

- Pilates classes
- Book club
- Line dancing (new)
- Crafting afternoons (new)

Parishioners have also used the Hall for other events such as meetings, a christening, and wakes.

Hall maintenance has become an important discussion topic and the maintenance team has made several improvements. These have included new piping for the gas tank and clearing the overgrown vegetation around the tank. The team have also replaced lights with more energy efficient ones, coordinated the EV charging point installation and solved the boiler issue. We have also identified that there is problem with the stone wall at the front and are currently in process of investigating the best course of action. A structural engineer has assessed the site, and this may result in a significant investment to rectify. We are planning to apply for the Batsworthy fund for funding. We are also looking to improve our kitchen facilities to bring them to a modern standard and have established a sub-team to progress this.

Here's to a successful year ahead full of fun and beneficial activities. We are looking forward to welcoming new team members and anyone who wants to come and get involved in any of our events and activities.

Tiina Paju-Pomfret

Chairperson