

## **Great Alne & Kinwarton Memorial Hall**

### **Overview Report**

Over the last year some regular bookings have ceased but ad hoc bookings continue to be quite strong. As a consequence the Hall continues to make a loss from hirings. To help mitigate the loss, a £10 heating surcharge is now applied during the winter months to reflect the higher energy costs incurred.

Fund raising activities to cover the shortfall in income and enable improvements have taken place during the year. In addition to the Hall 100 club and monthly Film Club screenings there was the annual Village BBQ, a Christmas Coffee Morning and a Magical Christmas Supper. A free event to celebrate King Charles' coronation was arranged and the annual Christmas is Coming event was also free. All events have been popular and well attended, despite the bad weather at critical times!

During the year the new bar became operational and has been well used, adding to the Hall's appeal for occasional hire. PIR sensors were fitted in the cloakrooms recently and activate the lights when the cloakrooms are entered and switch off afterwards. This avoids lights being left on overnight or for an even longer period.

The high winds in December blew down the notice board shared with the Parish Council. A replacement using recycled plastic will be sought as it would not rot or suffer damage from strimming round the support posts, as the original did. The cost will be shared by the Council once a board suited to both parties needs has been agreed.

The high winds also broke the rope on the flag pole which resulted in the Union flag becoming detached and ending up in a tree. The rope will be replaced once a safe way of lowering the pole has been found.

The kerbside litter bin was destroyed by an unknown vehicle in December. Stratford District Council has disowned it and expects the Parish Council and/or the Memorial Hall to pay for a replacement and its emptying. This is not acceptable to the Hall or the Parish Council and will be disputed.

Planning permission has been obtained to cut back the dead wood on the diseased oak tree by the roadside. Hopefully the work will prolong the tree's life. The tree cannot be saved.

The former Social Club was put up for auction on 14 December but was not sold. There appears to have been some post auction interest in the derelict property but it is not known if this will be pursued or for what purpose. The Club includes what is known as the Snooker Room which used to belong to the Hall but was lost after a long running dispute. Attempts have been made to buy back the Snooker Room but the owners do not want to be sold separately.