



CROMHALL PARISH HALL AND RECREATIONAL TRUST

(CHARITY NO. 287244)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

TUESDAY 20th MAY 2025

7-8pm

Annual Committee Management Report

Welcome to Cromhall Parish Hall Annual General Meeting 2025. Jo, Kate and I look forward to sharing the annual management report with you. 2024 was all about stability, this year I am pleased to say that there has been positive, significant growth in hall activities, hire hours and overall presentation. Unfortunately, we cannot say the same about committee membership.

Committee and Trustee Membership

The management committee has gradually reduced over the last few years and is now down to seven members. Two of these members are Trustees and we have an additional Trustee, who is not a committee member.

Susie Gilbert and Joanna Carr share the Chair position and Kate Watson remains our Treasurer.

Susie also acts as the Booking Secretary.

Over the last year we have lost two of our committee members and have unfortunately been unable to recruit to replace them. We are actively looking for new members to either join us in an official capacity on the committee, or to volunteer at our events.

Hire

In 2024 our average monthly bookings were 15 events per month, this year we are delighted to report that since Dec it has increased to an average of 23 events per month, in fact April 2025 was our best month ever, with 36 events; bringing welcomed extra finances. We are fortunate to continue to have several regular hirers such as Ricochet Gundog Training, Pilates, Bodydance, T@3, Parish Council and CLiNC, and now have new regulars such as karate, kick boxing and a quilting group. In March we were able to support the local primary

school at short notice, when they needed to vacate their premises due to emergency water repairs.

Returning to use the hall this year were 2 dance companies, Phoenix Learning, the Village Agent and South Glos for the West of England Mayor polling station. Private hire, typically at weekends, continues to be healthy, every month having at least 2 bookings for a party, coffee morning or family gathering.

The hall management committee has been busy with events. We have a well-established quiz night, usually run every other month. The quizzes have on occasion been accompanied by The One Pizza van or Nicky's Street Food, making for a very popular and well supported evening event. The return of 2 events proved popular: the annual Summer Beer Festival and the Christmas Wreath Making day. It is important to us that there are activities for village residents and that events are accessible to our community, approximately 75% of hall users are local people, either from Cromhall or a neighbouring village.

Our Facebook page, Cromhall.com, banners and posters help us to communicate events, but word of mouth regularly creates new hire enquiries. We would welcome anyone who would like to run a weekly/monthly class to contact us.

We have bench-marked against other local halls and confirmed that our price is a true reflection of the current market for a hall of our size and facilities. Some local halls have increased their prices as the cost of energy increased, but we are pleased to have remained stable on this issue.

Hirer/User Feedback

We continue to have numerous positive comments about the hall and its facilities from many of our hirers, particularly the improved exterior presentation. Last year we had feedback from one of our regulars that the floor needed buffing/polishing. We now borrow the equipment so that every 2/3 months the floor is buffed with a commercial machine, creating an improved 'shine' to the floor.

We have installed an additional security light above the main door to aid users in the Winter months.

One of our hirers found the kitchen to have mould growth on the crockery- to address this the committee have installed dehumidifiers to try and reduce moisture in the kitchen, toilets and store cupboard, where moisture is more prevalent during the colder months. The committee also does a twice monthly hall check (during weekends when it is not hired out). We continue to have feedback regarding the hall's acoustics, please see the paragraph on grants for projects below, where we hope to address this.

Access to chairs and tables from the store cupboard occasionally causes difficulty for some hirers, we have created posters, with photographs on how to leave the space, so hirers can stack them more suitably for the next user.

In the last year our Google business rating has increased slightly from 4.3 to 4.5 stars (out of 5).

Fund Raising and Grants

Fundraising over the last year has been successful, mainly due to the success of our quiz nights. We regularly have 40+ attendees come along to take part in the quiz, socialise, drink and eat. Having local food vendors to visit us on quiz nights makes sure our attendees are well fed.

We also held a successful Beer Festival in July 2024 where we were able to sell plenty of beer, cider and wine to those in the Village. We also had The One Pizza Van serve pizzas. We have investigated alternative funding streams and have set the hall up on JustGiving to receive ad hoc donations. To date, this hasn't been hugely successful, but does give us options for raising money, without having to hold events.

In September 2024, work was completed on the exterior of the hall. This was funded mainly through a large grant from the West of England Rural Fund, but we also received generous donations from local businesses and organisations, including De Smit Medical, Tortworth Estate, Renishaw, Cromhall Parish Council and 1st Woodend Scouts. Mole Valley donated flowerpots.

More details on this project can be found in the appendix.

In the next year, we plan to continue fundraising and applying for grants from various bodies with an aim to raise enough money to make improvements to the interior of the hall, namely improving the acoustics. We plan to continue holding quiz nights and to hold another beer festival.

Gill Bailey continues to support the hall by maintaining the planters at the front - making the hall look colourful and inviting

General maintenance

This year we signed our new lease with Tortworth Estate which covers the hall premises and exterior for the next 3 years. There are no significant changes.

We have some repairs needed to the coping stones at the front, gable-end of the building, above the exterior notice board. Frost shattering has resulted in a deterioration to the stones. Tortworth Estate have been informed, and we await their review of required work. The interior of the hall is also in need of a little refresh, including replacing the curtains.

We are ever grateful to the local residents of Cromhall, it is only with their support can we help maintain and improve this historic building for many years to come.

Jo Carr and Susie Gilbert

Co-Chairs - Cromhall Hall Committee Management