

Priory Hall Management Committee
Chair's Report 2022/2023
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At the end of my first year at the helm of the committee I think back on a busy year, where things are still getting back to normality after the Covid-19 restrictions.

The usual loyal user groups of the hall continue to ensure that it remains as an integral part of our community with regular classes and meetings that fill the weekly calendar. There have been several fund raising events at the hall for local groups, like the First Responders and Severn Hospice Much Wenlock Support Group, and the hall has been regularly used at weekends for celebrations and family gatherings.

The Hall now boasts being the custodian of a new defibrillator, on the outside wall near the entrance, for use in an emergency and we are pleased that this adds to the network of defibs around the town. Following its installation the committee organised a safeguarding and CPR / Defibrillator day with the assistance of the town's first responders team with contributions from those who attended being given to the first responders. We also launched our new safeguarding policy at that session. Our community hall is used by so many local people and we felt we wanted to highlight our safeguarding procedures, to ensure users feel confident to do their bit in keeping everyone safe.

We were very glad to be able to reinstate our annual Christmas Craft Fayre which saw a very good attendance and helped to raise funds for the hall itself.

We have started working with a new on-line booking system - championed by the bookings secretary - which will bring our systems up to date and make the process of both this and raising invoices more streamlined. Our new Hive system has helped us keep heating costs under control, alongside the work of committee members to re-negotiate our energy contracts and a small rise in hiring costs. We know our users understood this move and appreciated that we had kept rises to the very minimum.

We have recently improved the facilities in the washroom areas and some of the signage around the building and are actively speaking to our users for their opinion on what improvements could be made to the hall and their user experience. As time moves on we are considering which improvements would give the greatest benefit to the hall and the users.

The committee has had a few changes in officers and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lesley Butler for all her hard work and commitment over the years in post. Lesley has handed over the reins of the role of secretary after 10 years, to another willing volunteer. Lesley is going to carry on as a committee member. Mark Butler, also a long standing member of the committee, has also resigned his position. It is hoped that he will stay on as a "Friend" so we can consult him at times when his knowledge of the workings of the hall could be invaluable.

We have also welcomed a new member to the committee, who is taking over responsibility for social media and our website. Other changes have included the appointment of a new treasurer to the committee.

I would like to thank those members of the "Friends of the Hall" group who have helped out at events when extra help was needed.

Finally I would like to thank all of the members of the committee for their constant hard work throughout the year which keeps this fabulous community resource going from strength to strength - long may it continue.

Duncan White
Chairman