

14th April 2025

Ugborough Village Hall - Annual Report 2025

Overview. Levels of use of the Village Hall have remained steady over the last 12 months, and whilst short of peak pre-Covid activity the hall remains an essential enabler to many of the villages and wider Parish activities. The Hall continues to support a broad range of groups, individuals and activities, both regular and adhoc.

Utilisation. The Preschool and associated Breakfast and After School clubs remain the principal term-time hirer (Mon-Fri, 0800-1800), with an agreement to support Holiday Club as required during school holiday periods (e.g. Easter 25). This long-standing agreement remains beneficial to both parties whilst the long-term aspiration remains to seek a permanent site for their activities. Other regular hirers include fortnightly Sustainable Saturdays, various hosted community meals and events (Harvest Bring & Share; Produce Show, Wassail Singers, Quiz Night), yoga and chair exercise classes, as well as specific fundraising activities (Erme Valley Riding for the Disabled breakfast & Ukulele Cream Tea; Ivybridge Young Farmers).

The hall continues to support Fair Week, although in a more limited capacity this year. It is essential for the rehearsal and delivery of the annual Ugborough Dramatic Society production, where a two-week block booking was trialled in 2024 with lessons learnt to be implemented for the 2026 production. There are also several adhoc or one-off hirers of hall facilities to celebrate special events, conduct musical rehearsals, hold meetings or presentations, support electoral activities or provide an alternate location for the primary school (disco and Christmas production).

Fabric and Improvements. The Village Hall Committee has continued to pursue opportunities to proactively maintain and improve the hall over the past 12 months. All the emergency lighting has been replaced, and all damaged or 'blown' double glazing units have also been replaced. The ladies' toilet has been redecorated, along with the notice boards and lower sections of the paint work in the main hall. Concurrently, minor repairs and replacements have taken place this year alongside all planned annual mandatory inspections and maintenance works.

The Committee continues to scope the cost and feasibility of updating and improving the kitchen (focusing on the area around the sinks and improving the ventilation) and the men's toilets. It is hoped that this work will be completed in 2026. Additionally, in response to rising energy prices, it is planned to fit a Smart thermostat and control system to the building's heating to ensure we are only heating the hall when it is in use. This will be completed prior to this winter.

The Hall continues to use Ugborough.com for the Hall calendar and online booking facility, as well as publicising hire rates and terms and conditions, and other information relating to the facilities offered.

Acknowledgements. The Committee wish to express their appreciation to all those who have provided support in various ways for the Village Hall, to the groups and individuals who have hired the Hall and those Bodies and Groups who have provided grant funding and/or made donations to the Hall during the past year.

Rich Mears
Booking Secretary