NEWLAND VILLAGE ROOM

REPORT TO NEWLAND VILLAGE ROOM AGM – 2ND JULY 2025

Newland Village Room has continued to be a hub for the community as well as a valuable asset for hire, activities and community meetings.

During 2024, the Room was used for, amongst other things, NPC meetings, professional training sessions, private parties, monthly lunch club, band practices, art courses, flower arranging and dance practices.

The Village Room Committee also held other events including a very successful quiz night, coffee mornings and the pop-up bars. There was no Summer barbecue planned due to the poor weather throughout the year, but instead, a Village Picnic was organised at Brookside Camp Site by kind invitation of the McGuinnesses, where the rain at least held off until later in the afternoon.

Maintenance continued to be an ongoing priority and achievements included re-gravelling the driveway, purchase and installation of a new projector screen, and mending and repainting the exterior woodwork. Also, seeking out and accepting quotations for the extension roof replacement which took a good deal of committee time and planning. However, the interior of the building now is a cause for concern as rampant woodwork is no longer controllable and other options need to be considered, which are unlikely to be cheap, and could put the Room out of action for a period of time, affecting income potential.

So, turning to finances:

Newland Village Room started the year with a bank balance of £16858 and ended the year with £18588. However, this did not take into account the projected spending in January 2025 of total replacement of the rear extension roof of £6,500 and our funds are now reduced accordingly.

Revenue making bookings for the Village Room continue to be modest, despite the website performing reasonably. Lack of dedicated off-road parking is definitely a disadvantage. Bar takings were much reduced - £1,317 compared to £3,165 in the previous year. This reflects the fact that we did not hold as many First Friday Pop-up bars due to the reduction in their popularity, the competition from the Ostrich providing too strong in some cases. Also, the Summer celebration was a somewhat muted affair as mentioned above. Bar takings will continue to be vital and the Committee has concluded that it is necessary to concentrate on offering enhanced event experiences to attract villagers to the Village Room. Any suggestions will always be gratefully received.

The support from our 100 Club is vital to the Village Room and is much appreciated. However, it is worth noting that unless we can swell the number of contributors, the subscription remains at 2017 levels - £5 per ball per month.

Regarding expenditure, this is regularly kept under review. A particularly favourable electricity rate which was locked in for 3 years ended, and a new one was negotiated, fixed for 2 years to provide some certainty. A new insurance contract for the Village Room was secured which resulted in a reduction of premium from £1,095 per annum to £698 per annum without a reduction in cover.

An annual grant has been received from the Parish Council, of £1000 in 2024, up from £902 in 2023. This is much appreciated. However, grants from other bodies are now as rare as hens’ teeth and time consuming to apply for.

We continue to be mindful that we are custodians and trustees of the Village Room, which was gifted to the community in 1919, and I would like to thank my fellow trustees and committee members for all of their efforts in the past year to ensure that we do the right thing by the Village Room. The Committee would also like to thank those of you who continue to be loyal supporters and contributors through your time and efforts.

Karen Davies - Chair

KLD 02.07.25