

## PAUNTLEY VILLAGE HALL REPORT

15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Coffee Mornings

Weekly coffee mornings continue to be well attended, and the mobile market continues to visit every third Friday of the month, which brings in some people to the coffee morning from further afield. A group of around 15 cyclists has also taken to dropping in for coffee on some Fridays. Our local walks continue on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, with Brian Richards running these.

### Events

Our friendly skittles matches are continuing to be popular and the latest was held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

On Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, we held an Easter Coffee Morning with hot cross buns, along with an Easter Bonnet competition. The prize for the men's bonnet was won by Ray Windless and the ladies' bonnet by Helena Rock. The Guess the Weight of the Simnel Cake was won by Lesley Harding – it was 4lb 2oz – and the cake was shared with people on the morning. Thanks to Janet Montague for making the cake for us, which was delicious. Photos of the bonnets and cake will be put on our Facebook page. We raised a wonderful £120.10 altogether.

The AV equipment has now failed us completely, appearing to be a fault with the cabling, and there have been no more film evenings. Our grant application to Awards for All for this, and for acoustic panels, was unsuccessful, and we need to decide on the next steps before the autumn if we want to recommence film evenings again then. A briefing note is enclosed and this is an agenda item.

We are having a Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Our big event for June is the 'D Day 80 Beacons Event' on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Our beacon will be lit, along with others nationwide, at 9.15 p.m. to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D Day landings. The Tudor Fish and Chip Van will be coming along on the evening, as it is also National Fish and Chip Day. Entry to the evening will be free, but donations will be welcome on the evening for Help for Heroes.

Future events:

- We are discussing an event to mark the official opening of the Petanque Court, some time during the summer.
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July - an Italian themed evening, with an Italian meal.
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August, Patricia has organised a Pop Up pub along with Miniyaki's Japanese food van.
- 27<sup>th</sup> September a talk by Dood Pearce from Newent Local History Society, on 'Newent Then and Now'.

### Pauntley Village Hall 100 Club

Our second 100 Club draw was made at our Easter coffee morning on Good Friday, by Paul Eastabrook using a random number generator. First prize went to Sue and Kevin Rycroft with number 33, second

prize to Rik and Patricia Kucharski with number 3 and third prize to Mark Hargreaves with number 21 – Mark has kindly donated his prize to the village hall refurbishment fund.

### **Hall Hire**

Hall hire remains very quiet with hardly any private bookings. Pilates, Newent Rangers and Spiritual Healing continue with regular bookings, along with Pauntley Play. Pilates numbers are still low and there is a real concern now that this may not continue, losing us a valuable booking which brings in over £500 a year. Local elections take place at the hall on Thursday 2nd May.

### **Solar Panels**

An application has been made to the Forest of Dean District Council's Rural England Community Infrastructure Capital Grant, for solar panels and a storage battery for the village hall. This has to be the most complicated and lengthy grant application process ever, and the outcome is by no means certain, but we will wait to hear.

### **Real Ale Committee Donation**

The Real Ale Committee have made a donation following the Pop Up Pub last September, which they made up to £500. We are very grateful for such a large sum and a letter has been sent to thank them. The volunteers have agreed that they would like this money to go towards work on the AV equipment.

### **Maintenance**

We had a cleaning day on 13<sup>th</sup> March and thanks to all those who came along. The interior of the hall was cleaned, the patio and front paving stones weeded, the gutters and drains cleared, and the grass and weeds around the exterior of the hall strimmed. Thanks also to Maurice for commencing grass cutting. The rear fence has now been erected. Thanks to Mark for arranging the exterior cleaning of the hall, which has now taken place. We need an external work party soon to reerect the marquee and a few other outside jobs.

7.4.24

Lesley Harding