

THORNTON LE BEANS VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

www.thorntonlebeansvillagehall.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 523436

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 Jan 2023 to 31 Dec 2023

TRUSTEES:

David Baker (Chairman)
Jo Linthwaite (Secretary)
Tom Banfield (Treasurer)

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| Maureen Bullock (up to March 2024) | Bob Baker (up to September 2023) |
| Nick Capstick | Gordon Campbell |
| Will Coates | Maureen Hague |
| Mark Linthwaite | |

Secretary's address:

Thornton House, Thornton-le-Beans, Northallerton, DL6 3SP

Tel: 01609-761337

Independent Examiner: Mr G Bateman

Governance

Thornton Le Beans Village Hall Charity was founded by a Conveyance dated 29th January 1953, whereby North Riding County Council sold the Hall and Land to Arthur Davison, Thomas Coates and John Dale for £550. Management of the Hall was formally vested in the Trustees under a Charity Commission Deed dated 26th July 1953. The Hall was originally the Village school, dating from around 1907. The Trustees own the building, all outbuildings, and the land.

Appointment of Trustees

The general management and control of Trust Premises is the responsibility of a Committee of Management. Currently all members of the Committee are ipso facto Trustees and retire at each Annual General Meeting which must be held every April. There is however no limit to the number of years in succession a Trustee may serve provided that, he or she be duly re-elected each year.

The Methodist Church and Women's Institute in the village are both entitled to appoint one member to the Committee.

After consulting the Charity Commission we plan to amend the wording of our Constitution at this year's AGM so that only four Officers are actually Trustees, and no other Committee member will have to share personal information with either our Bank or the Commission.

Objectives

The Trust deed requires that the Hall shall be run "for the purposes of physical and mental training and recreation and social moral and intellectual development ... for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish and its immediate vicinity without distinction of sex or of political religious or other opinions".

Hiring and Licences

The Committee runs various events throughout the year (see Review). The Hall is also available for hire by any other local individual or organisation at a cost of £15 for a morning, afternoon, or evening session for Parish residents, or £8.50 per hour (min 2 hours) for non-Parish residents. These rates were increased in September 2022 following a review by the Committee at the AGM. The Hall has a premises licence (for which the Secretary is the named licensee). Hirers who wish to sell alcohol or put-on public entertainment must obtain a separate Temporary Event Notice from Hambleton District Council.

Insurance

The Hall is insured with Allied Westminster with respect to property damage, contents (including those belonging to other organisations stored at the Hall), public liability, employers' liability, and legal assistance. Cover extends to all those activities away from the Hall associated with the Village Show. The Hall is a member of Rural Action Yorkshire, an organisation working to promote community development in rural areas, which has expertise in the management of Village Halls.

Building and Maintenance

2023 saw once again, the need to repair and reseed the grass area to the side of the Hall. This is entirely due to unnecessary parking on the grass verge by Hall users. The skirting boards inside the Hall were removed and replaced and the Fence posts surrounding the Hall were checked and any rotten or damaged ones replaced. We paid particular attention to the roof this year, having the roof, gutters and solar panels cleaned and cleared of moss.

The mains electrical installation is checked by a qualified engineer annually. Periodic checks are made of the emergency exit lighting and an annual discharge check is completed on all electrics. The fire extinguishers are checked annually under contract and the Hall is compliant with current Fire Safety guidelines. Volunteers from the Committee and others carry out other regular maintenance as and when required.

Review

2023 was a busy year for events at the Village Hall with a concerted effort to arrange some new events to try to attract and involve some new members of our community.

The two 'Big Breakfast' events were well supported, providing the Village with an opportunity for delicious food, friendly chat, and the morning papers.

The Village Show, once again held at the Hall with the kind donation of tents from Northallerton Scouts, was a busy day, with many, delicious, creative, and skilful entries. The weather was reasonably kind, and a good amount of people enjoyed the teas, cakes, and sideshows on offer.

Thanks must go to the Judges, Stewards all who helped, entered or came along to support on the day.

Autumn saw a busy programme of events with the introduction of a 'Pop Up Restaurant' evening, in October, this time it was Italian. With all tables booked, diners enjoyed a three-course meal with welcome drinks, coffee, and petit fours.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with particular praise for the three 'Italian' waiters!

Another themed event is planned for 2024 so keep your eyes out for details, and book early!

In November we welcomed Tom Bolton a Magician, who proceeded to amaze, astonish, and completely bewilder, a packed Hall. A very successful evening, not to be forgotten by anyone who attended.

December brought a flurry of festive events; 'Robin Hood' a pantomime, although not as well attended as we had hoped, proved to be riotous fun with all the usual 'Goodies', 'Baddies', songs, and jokes.

The weekly Whist, that proves popular throughout the year, culminates in the annual Christmas Whist and Draw, a popular evening with many prizes, raising funds for the Village Hall, that help to finance the Annual Cheese and Wine, which is free for all Villagers/members of the Parish to attend. This is proving a most popular and enjoyable event and once again proved the perfect beginning to the festive season.

If you wish to check a date in advance or make a booking, please contact our Bookings Secretary Maureen Hague 01609-774325, to discuss availability, or check out our website which displays a full list of all forward bookings. The site is easy to navigate and has photos and information regarding all activities and groups. Please visit us at www.thorntonlebeansvillagehall.org.uk

The Defibrillator remains in position outside the Crosby (Code C147)

The Beantown Bookstore has continued with regular Book Sale events throughout the year and continues to raise vital funds. Thanks must go to Maureen Hague for all she does to organise, sort, and sell the books.

Finances and Investment

Our finances during 2023 continued the improvement seen in 2022, and we have now fully recovered from the effects of COVID. Our **profit for the year was £3,117**, up from £2,323 in 2022.

External lettings income of £4295 showed a small fall, but our weekly Whist Drives brought in £2555 (a record). The Show in August raised £123 net. We also held five special Events during the year: the two Big Breakfasts and the Italian Evening were profitable, but the Magician and the Panto ran at a small loss. The Committee intends to continue such events to help bring the village together socially - they are not primarily seen as money-makers. The Christmas Cheese & Wine was held in place of our Pensioners' Party, and so no charge was made. Our income was further boosted by some generous donations from residents, the 100 Club profits, sales of books and DVDs (many via e-Bay thanks to Maureen), the Christmas Draw, and a sharp increase in our investment returns. We thank everyone who supported the Hall financially and in any other way during the year.

On the expenditure side increased cleaning costs were partly offset by cheaper heating oil. Our solar panel income more than covered our electricity bills. Repairs and renewals of £2097 showed a small increase, and we invested just over £300 in some new round tables. Ancillary costs include fees for our WiFi and our website, Newsletter charges, insurance and licences: together these rose from £1346 to £1567.

As at 31 Dec 2023 our **total assets stood at £47,262**, still dominated by the magnificent bequest we received in 2008. You can view the audited **summary 2023 accounts** from the Home page on our website, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the AGM– or just contact me directly (773666 or tombanfield62@gmail.com).

Thanks

Thanks must go to all members of our Committee, for without people willing to invest their time and efforts into the local community the Village Hall would not be such a success.

We now have some vacancies, so if anyone is interested in joining us please give your names to any member of the Committee before the AGM in April.

The Committee also wishes to thank everyone who supports and helps the Hall activities in any way, including all subscribers to the 100 Club.

This year saw the sudden and extremely sad loss of one of our most long serving supporters, Bob Baker, and thanks must go to him for all his hard work and support within the Village over many years.

We also thank our other Vice-Presidents, Penny Pilling, Norman Allison and Claire and Michael Binns.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Baker', is written over a solid horizontal line.

David Baker – Chairman

Date: 5th March 2024