**HELPRINGHAM MEMORIAL HALL**

**(Registered Charity 521846)**

The aims of the Memorial Hall are to maintain and provide a welcoming safe venue for all village activities and to be a focal point for Helpringham. Throughout 2024-25 it has been used every week day and many weekends.

The Regular Users, Exercise with Kimberley, Take Note Choir, Yoga, Kung Fu and The Parish Council, have continued to operate and support the Hall. The weekly Helpringham Community Café has been based at the hall during the Winter and throughout the temporary closure of St Andrews Church. This along with the fortnightly Lunch Club where many attend to enjoy a home cooked three course meal, sees the Memorial Hall being vital to many who attend to enjoy the friendly and welcoming environment and benefit from the social interaction, seeing these as the highlights of their week.

Other village activities have been supported by the Memorial Hall. The Feast in August saw games in the garden and a bouncy castle in the hall. The annual Remembrance Exhibition by the History Society was held in November and was well attended and appreciated.

This year the Village Archive has been moved to the Memorial Hall, into safe secure storage on new racking in the loft of the Conference Room.

The sale of second-hand books has continued with the money raised helping to pay for such essentials as toilet rolls. The 59 Club continues to be well supported and helps to pay for the cleaning of the Hall. Loans of furniture and wheel chairs are also services that are offered.

The Memorial Hall is hired out for many family occasions, birthdays, a christening, and funeral teas. Charities have also hired the hall for their fund raisers, whilst there have been several businesses hirings and staff training. The Girl Guides and the Brownies have also hired the hall for meetings and a sleep over one week end.

The Management Committee has continued with a programme of maintenance and improvement throughout the year, and have now had to have one of the Air Conditioning units replaced, which we have self-funded. As with most organizations these days we have not had any new people volunteering to help or join the committee which is now aging and dwindling. Being treated as a business the Memorial Hall is now subject to a great deal of legislation and regulation increasing the administrative load. All the required policies, insurance and licenses are in place, and the accounts have been audited.

The Memorial Hall has had a good year, is financially stable and continues to provide a safe welcoming focal point for the whole community.

Laraine Wright

Secretary 15th May 2025