

Berrow & Pendock Village Hall Committee Update - 13th May 2026

The past year has proved to be very positive for the Village Hall.

“Heat our Hall”

Our biggest achievement this year was to secure a £15,000 Legacy Grant from MHDC to put towards the “Heat our Hall” project, along with a contribution of £4,000 from the Village Hall Committee, some of which was raised through quizzes, the pumpkin festivals, raffles and generous donations. It was a lengthy application process, but we are thrilled to have gained this money and be able to spend it on a cost efficient and green way to heat the hall. Special mention to Emily Harris for her perseverance in securing the Grant.

We now have solar panels on the roof, air source heating and cooling in the main hall and kitchen and a battery to store our own power, all of which means that the hall can be used all year round by keeping it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. The heating can be operated remotely meaning that the hall can be warmed/cooled remotely before guests arrive. And, most importantly, no more need for pound coins to feed the meter!

The system also provides the opportunity to sell excess electricity back to the grid (once we are set up on the appropriate tariff by Octopus – which is work in progress!)

A drinks reception is being held on 21st May at 5.30pm in celebration of what has been achieved. All are welcome.

Events

This year has seen two more very successful sell out quizzes, one at Christmas and a Spring one at the end of last month. The Christmas quiz was festive themed with a generous cheese plate included and the Spring quiz saw the return of the very popular Tudor fish and chip van, serving supper during the interval. I’m very happy to report that the van was also used by a large number of locals.

Due to the continued success of the quizzes, we will increase the number per year, including a family one in the summer with Pizza. We are also currently looking into temporary liquor licenses so that we can host the fish and chip van again, while opening up the hall for people to eat and purchase drinks.

Our second Pumpkin Festival last October was bigger and better than the previous year, receiving a lot more entries to our competitions and once again a large number of children from Pendock, Eldersfield and Castlemorton schools entered pumpkins grown from seeds donated by the village hall. The heaviest weighed in at 16.8 kilos!.

This year the Pumpkin Festival will be held on Saturday 17th October. Continuing on from the success of the competitions last year, we are again increasing the number and variety of pumpkin themed categories.

Hall Usage

Unfortunately the Art Club and the Crafts Club have stopped their regular hire. We are beginning to see an increase in ad hoc hirings and are looking to build on this by raising awareness through events and advertising.

The Choir and the Benefice continue to be regular users.

We have been recognised as a Community Hub for Wellbeing by MHDC and have been working closely with Age Concern and MHDC to increase opportunities for the community use of the hall.

Committee Members

At the beginning of the year, Sheelagh Tooze decided not to continue in her role as secretary/treasurer. Subsequently, Simon Harris and Andy Samsonoff were appointed to the Committee as the Secretary and the Treasurer respectively.

Ernest Platt agreed to join Emily as the representatives for Pendock Parish Council.

There remains a vacancy to join Elisabeth Rambridge representing the Parochial Church Council.

Caroline Samsonoff and Janice Kennedy represent Berrow Parish Council.

The Village Hall Committee AGM was held on the 11th May, during which John Dudfield announced his intention to stand down as Chair. Janice Kennedy volunteered to replace him and was duly elected by the Committee. Emily Harris will continue in the role of Vice Chair. The Committee thanked John for his significant contribution to the Village Hall, especially during the renovation, and we hope to see him at future events.

We have space for two volunteer members of the public to join us and help shape the future of the hall.

Funds

The Village Hall ended the financial year with funds of £6,651.99.

The small committee of dedicated volunteers work very hard to ensure that the hall can be used by as many people as possible. It is a very important part of our community and we are very proud of the increase in bookings and of the events to take place over the coming year.