

July 2023 – No. 1

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of Bishop Wilton Hall. Our aim is to issue a newsletter at least twice a year which will be published on our website, sent to the regular hirers of the Hall, and published in the Parish Pump.

As this is our first issue, we would like to introduce ourselves and highlight the work that is ongoing to provide what we believe, is a truly wonderful facility in our village.

First of all, we would like to explain the reason for the recent scaffolding that you may have seen at the Hall:

Installation of Solar Panels

Thanks to part of the very generous gift to the village by the late James Goodhart we have been able to install solar panels along the Worsendale Road side of the roof as well as battery storage which will reduce our electricity bills and hopefully provide an income to the Hall via the national grid. The panels are now fully operational, and we have already seen a significant reduction in reliance on usage from the national grid.

In addition to the Solar panels, digital thermostats have been installed throughout the Hall so that each area can be individually heated to avoid energy waste.



Introduction.

Our “year” normally begins on the 1st of March which marks the start of our financial year. One of the first events in the calendar is the AGM, which this year took place on the 19th April 2023. The AGM is advertised in advance in the parish pump and on the village notice board. It is at the AGM that the Trustees stand down and, are offered for re-election or new Trustees appointed. The current Trustees are, Peter Goodrick (chair) Ian Robson (treasurer) Viv Guy (bookings) Sara Dace-Hughes, Kevin Dann, and Michele Lucas.

Post Covid

As a result of Covid, we lost a few significant users who regularly hired the hall. Whilst we have seen new user groups using the hall our bookings have not recovered to pre covid levels. In fact, when we look at the bookings between January and May 2023, they are 4% below what we saw immediately after lockdown. We do not know if this a long-term change and/or people tightening their belts as inflation rises.

What are the Trustees doing?

Their focus is the maintenance and running of the facilities to the benefit of the community. Currently we have been maintaining the sports fields. Rearranging the storage facilities to make it safer and easier for users to access the equipment that they need and reduce the risk of damage. Ongoing daily repairs to the building fabric and landscaping etc.....

Four of the memorial benches were recently renovated – those in memory of:

John W Earnshaw 1932-2010 ‘The Jolly Farmer’
Colin Robinson 1940-2017 ‘Happy Days’ Electrician,
Village Stalwart and Trustee of the hall
Lawrence West 1927-2010

Walter 1919-2009 and Winifred Chapman 1920-2012





Financial Matters

The two main sources of funds available to the hall to help maintain its upkeep are the charges that the users pay, and third-party funding (grants, donations etc). We strive to cover the hall running costs and sinking fund contribution (money set aside for the future replacement of high-cost items) from user charges. Third party funding is normally sought for big projects (e.g., the refurbishment of the tennis courts and the creation of a multi-sport facility).

The hall costs over £15,000 per year to run which on average is £1,250 each month without a contribution to the sinking fund.

Like everyone else we are seeing our costs rise. Since the hall was opened 2010 the hire charges remained the same until 2021. Since 2010, inflation has risen by 64.05% and by 22.54% since 2021. In addition to the recent installation of solar panels and battery storage to reduce our energy costs and of digital thermometers to more closely regulate our energy consumption we also aim to

- Closely monitor usage, income, expenses, and charges.
- Work to promote our facilities to potential users from the wider community.

It is hoped that these changes will help to minimise any future cost increases that may have to be levied.

Our Website

We are in the process of updating our website to include all the groups who use the Hall – please have a look via the tab ‘Village Links’ @ bishopwiltonhall.co.uk.

We are also in the process of updating our ‘What’s On’ facility to make it easier for you to access details of when the various groups are running and any other events coming up.

Hall Users

In addition to the regular groups, the Hall is also available for hire for weddings, children’s birthday parties, race nights, balls, business meetings, fashion shows, music nights, DofE camping, caravan clubs and much more. So please contact us via bishopwiltonhall@gmail.com to find out how we can help you book your event.

Getting Involved

If you would like to become involved with the running of the Hall as a volunteer, we would love to hear from you! As you can see from reading this newsletter the tasks involved to ensure the continued smooth running of the Hall are varied and numerous. And, as we know, many hands make light work! We had a fantastic turnout on the Sunday following the King’s Coronation helping to clean the Hall – if you participated and were wondering how you could become more involved, please get in touch.

In addition to this we are looking for a volunteer with a little time available to review potential external funding opportunities to see if there is something which the hall could take advantage of.

And last but definitely not least...

Bishop Wilton Hall

Staying in Touch



Huge congratulations to the Firebirds, the Ladies Netball Team, who won their division in the York and District League Sept –April in 2022 and gained promotion.

They have also recently won their division in the Tuesday (year-round) Yornetball League, gaining promotion to Division 1.

They also play in the Bibz n Balz League year-round entering 2 teams each season with players regularly awarded player of the season by opposing teams and have also won their FairPlay award.



‘We train most weeks on Wednesdays 7pm
At Bishop Wilton Courts. Fun, fitness, drills and socialising.
We are a friendly team of mixed abilities, always welcome
new
members.

Contact details via our Facebook site or 07733161540’

<https://www.facebook.com/BWFirebirds>

Website: bishopwiltonhall.co.uk / Email: bishopwiltonhall@gmail.com