

Memorial Social Centre Chairman's Report to the Parish Council AGM, 24th April 2025

1. The last year has been fairly uneventful compared to the previous three/four years of Covid turmoil and the mammoth task of funding and carrying out the reroofing of the whole Memorial Social Centre building.
2. Over the last year we have continued to make small but important cosmetic changes to the hall, thanks to the continued hard work of all the Trustees. Special mention has to go to the Deputy Chair – Gloria Harrison – and fellow Trustee Ken Mayes who have carried out most of the work. Due to them the hall is probably in the best shape it has been since its original construction.
3. We are financially healthy with a small operating profit, but this does mean that we are only slowly growing our reserves.
4. Thanks to a contribution from the Parish Council who paid for installation costs, we have purchased and installed a height restriction barrier to make access to the recreation field possible for most domestic vehicles only. The top of the barrier can be quickly moved to allow access for emergency vehicles or traders at the Farmers Market or for the forthcoming Summer Fete.

5. I am pleased to say that we do have some new blood on the management team - Sylvia Radley - who has joined the Trustees, so we are now seven in total.
6. Our biggest challenge for this year is to establish the best eco-friendly way to heat the hall and to find ways to finance this without depleting our reserves by too much! We are liaising with Community Action Suffolk to review the options and cost benefits.
7. I would like to end with special thanks to the team of Trustees; Sandy Wood; Gloria Harrison; Barbara Merritt; Beverly Harding; Ken Mayes and Sylvia Radley. I am very proud to work alongside this talented and committed team without whom the hall just couldn't function.

Steve Thwaite,

Chair of Trustees

Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre

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