

## REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE CLUB 24/25

The Village Club continues to thrive with its usual selection of activities. Since May '24 we have had a full programme of activities. In May there was the ever popular "Call-My-Bluff". This was followed in June by a Summer Party for members on a rather hot evening. The Annual "Boules Tournament" was held in July followed by a Coffee Morning in August. The Clubroom was also in use for the IMPHA Summer Show in that month. A Coffee Morning set us off for the Autumn in September followed by a very successful "Italian Evening" when the ladies provided a superb meal and the club was full to bursting. The AGM took place in November when the Treasurer reported a very satisfactory state of affairs and updates were given on improvements to the building etc.. We began the year with a Coffee Morning and it was lovely to see so many of our members catching up with their friends after the Christmas break. Ever ready to keep us busy there was another Quiz in early February. Then came the Pantomime, as ever a great entertainment and financial benefit to the Club. Thanks to the Delso crew again. Coffee and a Quiz with a VE Day flavour ended our year. The Club seems to be seeing more use – Snooker, Table Tennis, Pilates and Circuit Training on a regular basis with a number of outside users. Thanks go to an ever busy and willing committee and to all our members for their support.

PENNY MARSH [*Chairman*]

## Abingdon Hall report for 2025

A lot has been achieved this year. Most of which has to be credited to our secretary Rita Lishman.

After a lot of discussions with the planning office and help from Hazel Marsh a work specification for retiling the hall roof was sent out to three contractors. The committee agreed to accept the quote from Kavanagh's and despite the bad weather they completed the work quickly and efficiently.

A workshop about creating a website was held at a meeting that Rita and I attended. The cost would be £11.99 for the domain name and because we are a Charity there would be no charge for the website which we could design and maintain ourselves. Rita has set this up and it is running smoothly.

At another meeting we attended we heard a talk by a member of the fire brigade and it soon became apparent that the hall was not complying with Government guidelines. Four of the committee members met to examine in detail what was needed to bring the hall up to a legal standard. We identified three items that needed instant attention. One was the fact that the seats on the chairs were not fire retardant, so they have all been sprayed another was the fire exit signs were not adequate so they have been replaced with illuminated fire signs and lastly we have informed all hirers that the front doors need to be unbolted at all times. Rita has produced a Fire Risk Assessment document which will be reviewed yearly. We have also had all portable appliances PAT tested and a comprehensive electrical inspection has been completed. We are planning to put in place emergency lighting in the main hall and the toilet.

Wessex Internet installed our internet connection at the reduced rate that they offered when they were doing their sales meetings and it is working well.

The needlework project is going well and the ladies are holding a coffee morning on the 24<sup>th</sup> May to raise money towards mounting the tapestry. The original artwork is to be displayed in the kitchen area.

Village Open Gardens is taking place on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June as a joint project between the Hall and the Village Club which will hopefully bring in much needed funds.

Unfortunately Rita is retiring as our secretary and it is proving difficult to find a replacement. She has left everything running smoothly so hopefully someone will come forward to replace her.

## Chairman's Report January 2025

The challenging climatic conditions of the past year were reflected in so many areas of our gardens. The mild winter, followed by a cool and very damp spring meant an abundance of slugs and low levels of sunshine certainly affected the performance of many vegetables!

However, members managed to produce an excellent display of Gold Club daffodils in April and as a result of public donations £243 was given to Marie Curie.

We have had the usual interesting variety of speakers during the year and congratulations to Penny for organising our programme and an exceedingly enjoyable visit to Holme Gardens.

Various Speakers introduced us to A Journey along the River Frome, we enjoyed Salvias and other Summer flowering perennials, heard about A Flower Farmers Life then learned about Bulbs - their Selection and Planting, Seasonal Colour and Interest in the Garden and finally a Look at Costa Rica Wildlife.

Our Annual plant sale was again very successful, with an abundance of bedding, perennial and vegetable plants available and afterwards, the leftovers with honesty boxes at Dwell Deep, The Hollow and Orchard House added to the profits, all of which went toward helping fund the Summer Show.

Show Day in August dawned after a huge amount of planning, a few hiccups and enormous effort setting up before the day. It was then enjoyed by everyone, there was a high standard of exhibits, an amazing raffle, various stalls and a new area for children with a Bouncy Castle. As a result of the combined profits from the Plant Sale and Show, we were again able to make substantial donations to our chosen charities of Air Ambulance and Julia's House. Entertainment was provided by the village's own Sara Jones Band and our President Mervyn kindly stepped in and presented all of the prizes. We were also very grateful to Judith Dutch, who agreed to judge handicrafts when the organised judge was unable to travel on the day. The WI prepared and served very well received afternoon teas and the Steam Car was as usual, a highlight of the day. Anne Andrews again, very successfully took on the task of organising the Judges' and helpers' lunch, which was enjoyed by all who partook.

Heather Overton made a huge success of her first year as Show Secretary and I thank her for a seamless day. In addition I must thank my son who stepped in and became Treasurer for the day as Paul was rather unwell. Enormous thanks go to everyone who assisted setting up, helping on the day in so many ways and then dismantling and clearing up after the Show.

The Christmas Social in early December was enjoyed by all who attended and again thanks to committee members who helped organise food, set up and clean up.

I would particularly like to thank all members of the hard-working committee for their support, ideas, commitment and enthusiasm and to especially thank Graham Hale for all of his contributions to the many IMPHA activities including Secretary, over several years and although he ~~was retiring~~ from the committee, we hope to continue seeing him as a stalwart volunteer. I would also like to welcome Anne Gorman as our newest committee member.

Finally, thank you to ~~you~~ the members, who support the meetings, raffles and events in so many different ways, as I have always said "you are what keeps the Association going from strength to strength.

We look forward to a new gardening year with all of its challenges and please do encourage new people to participate in our various activities.