

## Marlingford Village Hall Annual Report

April 2022

As we move into a post restriction era Marlingford Village Hall is gradually receiving more and more people and activities. As previously reported during lockdown we have taken the opportunity to improve our facilities and making the are more usable and pleasant space to be. This has extended to include a new patio at the back of the hall with patio doors replacing one of the windows. This gives a large area across the entire rear of the hall with splendid views across the valley. As part of this work, we also added a new storage shed with a path between the shed and the hall. This allows all of the tables and chairs to be stored outside of the hall so that the whole o the internal space can be utilised.

The patio was officially opened when the hall hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning in September, raising over £300 for the charity. It was fantastic to see so many people at the hall enjoying tea, coffee, and cakes in the open air. Many thanks to all of those that helped and baked the sumptuous cakes and cookies. Having the patio was also very useful on November 5<sup>th</sup> when we held a bonfire party with a small number of fireworks. Everyone who came along really enjoyed seeing the remains of the old shed being lit on a cold November evening.

We now host 3 art groups on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays all of which are benefitting from the new facilities in the brighter and less drafty hall. It is always a pleasure seeing the artwork that is hung on the walls.

Marlingford Movies and Talks are slowly starting to happen as well although we are finding that our audiences are not as large as pre pandemic. We think that people are more used to the large multi national streaming services so we are looking to see if we can add value to films by having themed evenings.

Unfortunately, we have also had to cancel a couple of events in the last few months due to covid outbreaks and we hope that this will be a reducing trend.

The committee has a couple of new members, and we also have some new volunteers who are helping at events and general maintenance. We are now planning for more events during the summer and autumn, with a re-arranged Indian Night, the Queens' Platinum Jubilee Celebrations where we will hold a

village afternoon tea party followed by a Barbeque in the evening in conjunction with Marlingford Cricket Club, and a sale to raises funds for Marlingford Church.

The committee is always grateful for the support received when holding events and the support that we get from the parish council and South Norfolk district council. If anyone would like to book the hall in advance for an event/party/group or get involved with the organising committee, please get in touch.

Chris Whiting  
Chair, Marlingford Village Hall Committee