

# **Report to Parish Council May 2024**

## **Ousden Village Hall and Playing Fields**

Another quiet year at the Hall.

The committee have been busy behind the scenes meeting to discuss developments for the new village hall and were delighted that planning was granted, at long last, in the autumn. There is a three year window to organise future plans.

We are now hoping to fundraise for the newbuild which will be a major undertaking and will require a professional bidder to undertake this on our behalf.

Maintaining the hall has been expensive this year, as we needed the big 5year electrical test, another overhaul of the fire alarm system along with the usual insurance costs. The heating costs have also risen enormously. Also, a separate group is renovating the play park.

Events have been few and are not very lucrative. We held a really enjoyable Christmas Craft Fair in December but the spring and summer café openings in 2023 were disappointing. Although we get several cyclists and ramblers, very few village people turn up on Sundays. Often this depends on the weather as people enjoy sitting outside and looking at the view over the playing field. We keep the field mowed at all times which also adds to our costs.

Cricket took place last year but due to the awful weather conditions very few games were held.

For the first time we hosted a wedding at the hall which was very well organised by a local couple. There was a marquee with 80 guests.

Yoga and Bowls continue to be well supported and Dog Training takes place from time to time.

The Ousden Lottery is still popular and brings us some profit each quarter.

At the AGM in November we welcomed another two new members to the committee. This has made up our numbers, once again, to nine after the resignation of two villagers last year.

Our thanks to John Gale who attends our meetings and to the Parish Council for their donations.

Chris Ingham Chair of Ousden Village Hall Committee