

Iden Village Annual Assembly Minutes

23rd April 2023, 7pm Iden Village Hall

Welcome

The Chairman of the Parish Council Ray Griffin thanked residents for attending. There were 27 people in attendance. Apologies had been sent ahead by Jill Wood, Suzannah Miller and Zoe Strangeways.

Minutes of 24th April 2023 were reviewed and agreed.

Village Hall Report – Nick Padgham (Chairman of the Village Hall Committee)

It has been my pleasure to be the Chairman of Iden Village Hall Committee for the last two years.

I would like to start off by thanking everyone that has supported the Village Hall this year by attending any one our events and for your generosity in supporting our numerous raffles. It is really appreciated and it has enabled us to maintain the hall to the standard that it has becomes accustomed to.

I'd like to think that the hall offers something for everyone in the village, so let me just remind you of some of the regular events held here;

The Pop-In, an opportunity to meet up for tea, cake and a chat every second Monday.

Short Mat Bowls on Wednesdays.

Bingo on Thursdays.

Yoga, now two classes a week.

The WI meet here regularly, as do the Parish Council and Iden Natural History Society.

Next month, The Rye Photographic Club also plan to move their regular meetings to Iden.

The Annual events here include the very popular Cream Tea (this year it'll be held on the 20th July -so put the date in your diary and do come along).

We've also held quiz nights, an evening of Iden Times Past through old photographs and post cards, the Remembrance Sunday gathering, and re-fresher training n the use of De-Fib machines.

The two large notice boards at the back of the hall were donated to us, and we've used these to illustrate both Iden and the events in the hall. We've also given a home to the Iden quilt, produced by the ladies of the village during the lockdown of 2021.

Like everyone else, the cost of our water, electricity and insurance has gone up, but we've still managed to find money to replace the projector when the old one failed, we've had the red chairs re-upholstered and we've fitted new window blinds in the kitchen.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Morris and Yvonne who very generously held an open garden event back in July in aid of the village hall. We had a lovely afternoon, and raised almost £250.

The Hall has also been able to be charitable this year by providing the venue free of charge to the start of the 'Save the Bell Pub' campaign, and to the two lunches organised by Jan Hook in aid of Cancer Research.

This year Rother District Council have been running a project help improve the energy efficiency of local village halls. We were successful in getting a grant of almost £3,000 to totally replace all the lighting with more efficient LED lighting. The installation should start to take place soon.

Hopefully, by now, you will have noticed that the Hall now holds a regular bi-monthly indoor boot fair/table top sale, and these have gone from strength to strength. If you've got any clutter in the attic or in the shed that you'd like to get rid of why not book a table for the next one, and who knows, you might make a few pounds for yourself. The dates are on the noticeboard.

I do hope that you've enjoyed at least one of our bi-monthly 'Lunch' events. These have proved to be very popular, and so far we've enjoyed Soup & Jacket Potato, Pancakes, Thai Curry, and most recently some Italian Lasagne. We are very lucky to have some very good cooks on the village hall committee and that has enabled us to run these events and we look forward to your continued support.

In case you're not aware, the village hall has recently received a grant of £5,000 from the Wind Farm towards the cost of installing Solar Panels on the roof. This, together with the money raised recently from the boot fairs and lunches has enabled us to instruct a local contractor to begin the Solar panel installation in the next few months, so watch this space. Finally, I would like to thank everyone on the committee for all their hard work and support this year. I will be standing down as Chairman next week at the village hall AGM in order to spend more time with my young son. If you would like to join the committee, or have any ideas for future events here, then do please make yourself known.

Iden Stores Report – Debbie Chalet (Chairman of the Iden Stores Committee)

When Morris Metcalfe stepped down as Chairman, Debbie took on the role. Debbie thanked Christopher Strangeway who is not only the largest percentage owner but also the Treasurer. The Stores Holding Group is in a sound financial position. Liz ??? who has been secretary since the start (the last 20 years) has stepped down and so a new secretary is sought.

Following Covid the shop needs some refurbishment. The group's funds can easily cover their share of the cost. The group is glad that Kamal and his new wife have settled in and have become part of the community.

'Save the Bell' – Ralph Sperring (Treasurer of Save the Bell Group)

The Bell Inn closed 10 months ago leading to a public meeting being held in August 2023. A survey went out in November, and 120 responses were received. Ninety-five percent of respondents were very supportive so a management group was formed to look into the viability of the community taking on running the pub. The group has formed a Community Benefit Society which means all profits will be ploughed back into it. They are currently registering with the Financial Conduct Authority. The valuation has revealed that some work is needed on the property and approx. £600,000 will be needed to acquire the property and get it up and running.