

## Teffont Village Hall Report 2025

2025, like all years, was a busy one for Teffont Village Hall. The purpose of the Village Hall, as we all know, is to provide an amenity for the villagers of Teffont - a place for people to meet, a space for them to use – and as always, that is what the Hall has done. The Village Hall team has worked hard running events and keeping the place shipshape, and I should like to thank them all: Jeremy Ames, our marvellous Treasurer, Catherine Bernard, Keeper of the bookings and Hall Secretary, Emma Brown, wine, beer and burger buyer (and chief chucker-outer of Hall detritus), Joss Wood, Fi Homan and Emma Rutherford who pretty much run the events and Natalia Stankovitch, who runs the children's things. I hope I haven't left anyone out...

The Hall has a good list of regular bookers; as well as Dorset Italian we now have Tai Chi, Art classes and Kettlebells booking in blocks, plus Teffont Fly Fishing Club and a local shoot continue to come for their annual dinners, and the cycling club, Glorious Gravel, and Teffont Archaeology also returned. We had one local election in 2025 – the Hall becomes the local polling station – and the NHS held an event there. Private bookings were slightly down this year, though the Hall still provided a space for members of the community to hold talks and large parties.

Ian and Marianne Stuart are running the café during Rosemary Pegrum's illness, liaising with her as closely as her circumstances will allow. The cost of some of the items they buy in for the café have gone up quite steeply, especially the pastry items. They are intending to increase the price of these items to £2 next season. There have been some instances of petty pilfering; locks have been put in place so it's now stopped, thank goodness. The number of attendees can vary wildly – sometimes the place is heaving, at other times very quiet – but it remains a regular meeting place for the village (except August and Christmas), which is its strength. Newcomers to the village can meet residents, and those who live alone can be assured of some company and chat. Sausage rolls, pastries, cakes and hot and cold drinks are served. There is a wonderful team of volunteers who keep things going - it would not exist without them. The café also provides employment to two local young people who work alternate weeks. It goes without saying that the Village Hall Committee offers huge thanks to Ian and Marianne Stewart who have taken

over the running of the Café while Rosemary Pegrum has been ill, and, of course, to Rosemary herself who is still sorting out the volunteer rota.

The Hall hosted several Pig & Whistle events, including a well-attended Beer and Burger night, with Stone Daisy beer provided by the Wiltshire Distilling Company. The main Hall events, though, were the two fabulous dinners provided by chefs Hamish and Rosie of From The Woods, with wine selected by Emma and Rory Brown, for which, as ever, many thanks. Joss Wood was the maitre d' and fulfilled her role superbly. The Hall was filled to capacity and the dinners hugely enjoyed. Most definitely something to be repeated.

The two dinners provided significant funds for the Hall, while the Pig & Whistle events always add something to the coffers. Fundraising, however, is always going to be an issue as costs increase, and we are going to have to keep hammering away at it.

Teffont Village Hall continues to be the cornerstone of the village, providing a welcoming place for all villagers to visit and make use of. The Hall and its committee exist to serve the community of Teffont, not to make a profit. In such a spirit the Hall provided free gluhwein and mince pies to parishioners after the Carol Service in Evias church before Christmas. We do, however, need to make sure that we can cover our costs, and in the future more fundraising events will be scheduled. These events will remain true to the spirit of Teffont Village Hall and be fun.