

NEW PITSLIGO VILLAGE HALL

AGM 12th July 2026 at 3pm

Attended

David Lear

Rob Nichols

Lorraine Lear

Kate Johnstone

Carolyn Slessor

Adam Cruickshank

Arron McNiven

Also In Attendance

Apologies

Sarah Wood (on holiday)

Hon. Chairmans report

Chairman's Report

Good afternoon everyone and thank you all for attending our Annual General Meeting. My report covers the period from July 2025 to today.

It has been another busy and productive year for the committee and our volunteers. While we have faced several unexpected challenges, I am pleased to report that the hall continues to improve both financially and operationally, thanks to the dedication, commitment and countless hours contributed by our committee members and volunteers.

The progress made over the past year demonstrates what can be achieved when we work together, carefully manage our finances and make the best possible use of the resources available to us.

Overview of the Year

Overall, this has been a successful year for the hall.

One of our greatest achievements has been delivering significant improvements to the building whilst carefully controlling expenditure. Through prudent financial management, volunteer labour and sourcing materials directly where possible, we have been able to complete projects at a fraction of their original estimated costs.

Throughout the year we have continued to improve the facilities for our users whilst maintaining a sound operational position. Although there have been challenges along the way, the committee has responded positively, ensuring that work has continued and disruption has been kept to a minimum.

Community Activities and Fundraising

Whilst maintaining and improving our building remains a major priority, the success of the hall is equally measured by how well it serves our community.

Charity Bring and Buy Hub

Our Charity Bring and Buy Hub continues to go from strength to strength and remains an invaluable asset to both the community and the hall

The Hub provides local residents with an opportunity to donate, recycle and purchase quality items at affordable prices, whilst generating a valuable and sustainable source of income that directly supports the ongoing maintenance and development of the hall.

This success would not be possible without the dedicated committee members who give up their time week after week to sort donations, serve customers and keep the Hub operating efficiently. Their commitment and enthusiasm are a credit to the organisation, and they deserve our sincere thanks and congratulations for the countless hours they willingly contribute.

Community Events

One of the most encouraging developments this year has been the continued growth in the number and variety of events held within the main hall.

Committee members have worked exceptionally hard to introduce new ideas, organise activities and deliver events that appeal to a wide range of people. Their willingness to embrace new opportunities has helped increase both hall usage and community engagement.

Many of these events are now attracting excellent support

Maintenance and Improvements

Window Replacement

One of the largest projects undertaken this year was the replacement of all sixteen single glazed / Sash style windows.

The original quotation for this work was approximately **£32,000**. By purchasing the windows at wholesale prices and undertaking the installation ourselves, we successfully completed the project for approximately **£8,500**, representing a saving of over **£23,000** with a Big Thanks going to Rob for organising and mainly managing these works. This is an excellent example of how volunteer commitment and careful planning can deliver substantial financial benefits to the hall.

Hall Redecoration

The redecoration of both main halls initially began with external decorators. Unfortunately, the standard of work did not meet our expectations, and the decision was made to terminate their contract.

Whilst this created additional work for the committee and volunteers, it ultimately saved the hall money. Committee members have since completed the majority of the decorating themselves, with only minor snagging work remaining.

We were also grateful to receive a **£750 grant**, which almost entirely covered the cost of the paint required for this project.

Roof and External Repairs

The roof works were completed prior to last years AGM, although having significantly improved the condition of the building, a small number of additional roof defects have recently become apparent. We are currently awaiting quotations so these can be addressed as part of our ongoing maintenance programme.

Kitchen and Toilet Improvements

Decoration of the kitchen and toilet areas continues during evening volunteer sessions.

We are extremely grateful to **Crown Paints** for donating the paint used for these improvements, reducing costs to the hall considerably.

Work is also underway to remove and replace the deteriorating wall within the main toilets.

New flooring is scheduled to be installed in both main toilets and the kitchen, with work due to commence in August.

Bar Facilities

During the year we successfully reinstated the bar area.

The bar has been redecorated, new equipment has been purchased and Adam has now completed the necessary training to operate the bar safely. Further in-house training will continue to ensure additional committee members are able to assist during events.

War Memorial

It was established earlier this year that The Public Hall Committee has always been, and will continue to be, the custodian of the village War Memorial. We recognise the importance of preserving this important landmark as a place of remembrance and reflection for our community.

As part of our ongoing maintenance programme, we have identified a small amount of pointing work that requires attention to the surrounding walls and steps. It is important to note that these repairs relate solely to the surrounding masonry and **not** to the War Memorial itself.

These minor works will help preserve the integrity and appearance of the surrounding structure, ensuring that the site continues to provide a fitting setting for remembrance services and commemorative events for many years to come.

Fire, Health & Safety and Environmental Compliance

I am pleased to report that the hall remains fully compliant with all Fire Safety, Health & Safety, Environmental and Environmental Health requirements.

During the year the committee has unfortunately had to respond to a number of anonymous allegations suggesting otherwise. Following appropriate investigation by outside agencies, each of these allegations has been found to be unfounded and false. We remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of compliance and will continue to ensure that all statutory obligations are fully met.

Challenges

Whilst the year has been successful overall, we continue to face a number of ongoing challenges.

Like many community organisations, we continue to experience increasing utility and operating costs. The maintenance of an ageing building also means that new repair requirements regularly arise, requiring careful budgeting and prioritisation.

A significant challenge throughout the year has been the reliance upon a relatively small number of volunteers. The amount of work achieved has only been possible because of the dedication and commitment of those individuals who have willingly given up many evenings and weekends.

As always, continued funding remains essential if we are to maintain and improve the facilities available to our community.

Looking Ahead

Looking towards the coming year, there is still much we hope to achieve.

Our maintenance programme will include:

- Completion of the Bring and Buy Hub decoration.
- Decoration of the stage area.
- Repainting of the main red entrance door.
- Repainting of the external metal drainpipes.
- Completion of the toilet refurbishment.
- Installation of the new flooring within the kitchen and toilet areas.
- Completion of outstanding roof repairs.
- Replacement of the Main Hall existing Fire Doors

We also have ambitious plans to repurpose the upstairs hall by:

- Installing a fully operational kitchen.
- Removing the existing bi-folding doors.
- Laying carpet throughout the hall area.
- Installing commercial-style flooring within the kitchen area to match the downstairs facilities.

Alongside these improvements, we will continue seeking grant funding, which thanks should go to our Secretary who seems to have this of the a fine art now, developing fundraising opportunities and encouraging

greater community involvement through increased volunteering and participation. Recruiting new committee members and volunteers will remain one of our key priorities to ensure the long-term sustainability of the hall.

Closing Remarks

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks again to every committee member, volunteer, supporter, hirer, and member of our local community who has contributed to the success of the hall over the past year.

The amount of work completed would simply not have been possible without the countless hours of voluntary effort so generously given. Your commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to help continue to make a real difference.

Whilst there is still work ahead of us, I am confident that, together, we can continue to improve our facilities and ensure the hall remains a valuable and welcoming asset for our community for many years to come.

I would also like to pay particular tribute to the committee members who run the Charity Bring and Buy Hub and to those who dedicate so much of their time to planning and delivering our growing programme of community events. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and teamwork have become some of the hall's greatest strengths, helping to create a vibrant community facility that is increasingly well supported by both local residents and visitors from the surrounding areas.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their continued dedication, hard work, and support throughout the year. Together, we have achieved a great deal, and I look forward to continuing our work in the year ahead.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Hon. Treasurers report

The treasurer role is shared between Arron McNiven and Rob Nichols; Arron deals with all IT aspects, monthly accounting and paying invoices, with Rob dealing with all cash elements.

Details of financial year 2025/2026, which ended on 28 February 2026, are below:

Receipts			Payments		
	2024/2025	2025/2026		2024/2025	2025/2026
<i>Rents</i>	£4,398.00	£4,039.77	<i>Fundraising</i>	£2,143.00	£2,098.19
<i>Grants</i>	£500.00	£7,087.25	<i>Grants & donations</i>	£230.00	£1,525.10
<i>Fundraising</i>	£14,909.00	£16,557.48	<i>Heat & light</i>	£1,965.00	£2,023.17
<i>Donations</i>	£985.00	£3,559.05	<i>Maintenance & repairs</i>	£7,988.00	£9,057.43
<i>Interest</i>	£7.00	£0.41	<i>Hall keeper</i>	£2,450.00	£2,475.00
<i>Sponsorship</i>	£0.00	£145.00	<i>Insurance</i>	£1,396.00	£929.86
<i>Shows</i>	£0.00	£2,991.99	<i>Cleaning</i>	£586.00	£604.58
<i>Other</i>	£340.00	£863.61	<i>Shows</i>	£0.00	£1,950.00
			<i>Registrations</i>	£0.00	£179.99
			<i>Office costs</i>	£0.00	£92.55
			<i>Capital</i>	£0.00	£7,587.99
			<i>Other</i>	£943.00	£2,415.74
Total	£21,139.00	£35,244.56	Total	£17,701.00	£30,939.60

	28 February 2025	28 February 2026
<i>Surplus</i>	£3,483.00	£4,304.96
<i>Bank & cash</i>	£7,389.00	£11,694.06

These figures represent an accurate account of the *New Pitsligo Village Hall* finances for financial year 2025/2026. They have been verified by an independent person in June 2026 (document circulated during meeting). Once AGM documentation is completed, Arron will complete the OSCR return.

The committee agreed to a large investment plan during 2025/2026 to help with the upkeep of the building. Major works completed/ongoing are: replacement windows, upgraded lighting, new insulation and interior decoration works. Despite these large expenses, the *Hall* is in a very health financial position.

Hon. Secretary's report

During the past year, I supported the committee by preparing meeting agendas, recording and distributing minutes, maintaining organizational records, and managing correspondence. The committee held 12 meetings, all of which were well attended by the committee. Member records were updated throughout the year, and all required

documentation was maintained in accordance with the organization's constitution and OSCR requirements.

We have gained a new committee member, Adam Cruickshank and had a changeover of hall caretaker/cleaner, with Sarah Wood, now taking on this role, Due to Lu Beattie resigning and moving home to a new location.

The hall continues to have regular users-

Clubs & groups-

Craft Club

Boys Brigade,

Adventchurz, who hold frequent free events for the children of the community and held their 1st pantomime in the hall last Christmas.

Reach Out- a new group which offers emotional support will be using the hall every Monday evening.

And events-

The New Pitsligo Annual Visual Arts

The New Pitsligo Annual Flower & Horticultural Show & coffee morning

St Johns Primary School concert

Table Sales

Christmas Fayre

New Pitsligo Annual Quiz night

New Pitsligo Annual Dog show

Cold case Murder Mystery

to name but a few.

Many thanks to all groups, individuals and residents of New Pitsligo that have continued to support and make use of the Public Hall.

The halls Facebook page has helped to inform our audience of upcoming events and started with 46 followers 2 yrs ago and now has a great following of 1300.

We have also now started to make use of a ticketing website, which has helped with individuals being able to book tickets from further afield and also helps to reassure those individuals that are concerned about scam events. The hall hire forms have been adjusted to support the treasurer to gain the information needed from hirers. All archiving is now kept upstairs in the loft.

We have continued to improve and maintain facilities within the hall, with the aid of grants and self raised funding.

I would like to thank the committee members who are also volunteers, for their cooperation, commitment and support throughout the year.

Nominations & election of the committee.

The committee -de-selected themselves from the committee and then voted on the roles to be filled again for the next year for 2026/2027.

Chairman- David Lear, was re-elected – nominated by Carolyn Slessor & Adam Cruickshank.

Vice chairman- Adam- nominated by David Lear and Rob Nichols.

Treasurer- Treasurer, Arron McNiven. Nominated by Rob Nichols & Adam Cruickshank.

Vice-Treasurer- we have a 2nd treasurer that deals with all cash related transactions incl cash withdrawals, floats and paying cash into the bank etc. Rob Nichols was re-elected, nominated by Kate Johnstone & Arron McNiven.

Secretary- Loraine Lear was re-elected- nominated by Kate Johnstone and Adam Cruickshank

The other non-specific roles of the Committee filled by-
Kate Johnstone
Carolyn Slessor
Sarah Wood

AOB

None brought forward

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is a complex, scribbled loop. The second signature on the right is more stylized, consisting of a vertical line followed by two large, sweeping loops.