Walls Public Hall:Chair Report February 2026

The Walls Public Hall celebrated 100 years since its beginning this year, and it has been another very busy one .

Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance has been a priority and we have been fortunate to have the Criminal Justice Repayment Team helping with a major re-decoration of the hall interior. The front porch ,main hall and side bar are now complete and they will continue painting the snooker room and committee room early this year. Brydon Irvine from Westside Electrical continues to upgrade our electrical systems at the hall and bring them to current standards, and this will continue this year, when we hope to update the stage lighting and hall ceiling lights. Picasso Painters are booked for the spring to re-paint all the exterior wood, and Harling contractors have been booked to repair the rear hall wall. The hall floor was stripped and re-polished by committee members during the summer. We updated the fixed deep fat fryers in the hall kitchen, and thanks to the co-op local fund we purchased a selection of new aluminium pans for events.

The Co-op Community Fund have also given us a grant of £1000 to set up and run a Waas Warm Hub offering free food, warmth and wifi to all in the community, with dates in January and February 2026. We are still in the process of obtaining grant funding for the new air to air heating system at the hall but are confident this will happen in 2026. Brian Chittick successfully applied for a resilience grant to purchase satellite phones in the event of a power cut and we were awarded £6000. The ordinance survey installed a location device at the hall and will pay the hall £1000 per annum to support this.

Fundraising Events

It was a very busy year of fundraising with the regular events of Redd up, Quiz Nights, Fish and Chip Nights, Duck Race, Sunday teas, show day, halloween party, Advent Teas, with the addition of a vintage weekend in April to celebrate the hall centenary, where we joined forces with the Waas History Group to host a weekend of memories, vintage sweeties and even a vintage photo booth! There was Centenary Supper/Dance in September to which the whole community plus past committee were all invited. The Cullivoe Dance band provided the music and the grand centenary raffle was drawn. The Hall Christmas Meal went ahead in December and was a big success. Unfortunately the Burns Supper Band were stranded in Edinburgh in 2025 so we had to cancel the event, but we were happy to invite them back for the Burns Supper in January 2026.

Community

The community continued to support the hall, both at events and with private hires throughout the year. The toddler group continues to meet, as does the yoga, history group, community council, marina group, and the walls and district show. The Chinese Takeaway are regulars and the nomadic pizza booked several dates too. We hosted the local UHA in February/March, the RVS meet regularly, as does the Westside drama group. Happyhansel school often rehearse and perform their Christmas concert, and there is the ever popular Brass Band Concert in December too. And of course the many family birthday parties, weddings, and other celebrations means the hall is still regularly used and appreciated by the whole of the community.

Our aim for the next year is to continue pushing through all the necessary maintenance work that the hall needs, ensuring that it is in good repair for the years to come.

Hilary Smith-Hall Chair