

Chair's Report

Tweedsmuir Village Hall AGM – September 2026

Welcome to the 2026 Annual General Meeting of Tweedsmuir Village Hall.

It has been another busy year for the Hall, and one in which we have continued to build on its role as an important community space. After some of the challenges of previous years, particularly around break-ins, insurance claims and replacing equipment, it has been good to have a year where much of our focus has been on improving the Hall, increasing its use and developing the activities taking place here.

Hall Improvements and Facilities

We have continued to invest in the Hall and look at ways of making it more practical, comfortable and sustainable.

Fibre broadband has now been installed at the Hall, giving us much better connectivity and opening up further possibilities for meetings, events and activities. We have also continued to improve the way we manage heating and electricity use, including remote heating controls and monitoring of our energy consumption and solar generation.

A number of smaller improvements and purchases have also been progressed during the year, including staging and equipment to make the Hall easier to use for events and community activities.

A particularly important development has been the successful award of **SSE funding to improve the Hall's energy efficiency**. This has enabled us to install **new battery storage for our existing solar panels**. The new batteries are now installed and operational, allowing us to make better use of the renewable electricity generated by the Hall.

The SSE funding will also allow us to **complete the insulation of the Hall**, further improving the energy efficiency of the building and helping us to manage future running costs.

Funding and Grants

We have been fortunate to secure two important sources of external funding during the year.

Alongside the SSE funding for battery storage and completion of the Hall insulation, we have also successfully secured **SPEN funding towards equipment and improvements for the Hall**.

The SPEN grant will allow us to purchase a number of practical items to improve the flexibility and day-to-day management of the Hall, including **two room dividers, a steam cleaner, floor scrubber and dehumidifier**, as well as contributing towards insurance costs.

These grants represent a considerable investment in the Hall and allow us to make improvements which would be difficult to fund through normal Hall income alone.

There is, of course, purchasing, record keeping and reporting associated with grant funding, and completing the remaining purchases and grant requirements will continue into the coming year.

Hall Use and Community Activities

One of the most encouraging things this year has been the range of activities now taking place in the Hall.

Regular and recurring activities have included **FitSteps, ceilidh dancing, garden group talks and crafting sessions**, alongside meetings, community events and private bookings.

The Hall also continues to provide a venue for Community Council and other local meetings and activities. It is important that it remains somewhere that can be used both by our own community and by outside organisations and groups.

We have also continued to explore opportunities for occasional overnight and group use of the Hall, helping both to make better use of the building and to generate additional income.

Tweedsmuir Film Club

A particularly exciting development this year has been the establishment of the **Tweedsmuir Film Club**.

Film nights had already proved popular, and this year we have developed this into a more structured Film Club, with a programme of screenings running through the autumn, winter and spring.

The Club offers both annual membership and individual film tickets, with refreshments included, and we hope it will provide another regular opportunity for people to come together socially during the darker months of the year.

The programme deliberately includes a mixture of films and styles. We are also planning a special December screening of *Virginia Woolf's Night & Day*, combining the film with the opportunity to read the book beforehand and enjoy a light 1920s-inspired supper on the evening.

The Film Club is still very new, but it is a good example of how we can use the Hall creatively — not simply as a building available for hire, but as somewhere where we can actively develop activities that bring people together.

Community Recycling

The recycling facilities based at the Hall continue to provide a useful service for the community.

The recycling hub allows residents to recycle a range of items which cannot easily be dealt with through normal household recycling, while the Ragbag collection also continues to generate a small amount of income for the Hall.

The **Tweedsmuir Little Library** also continues to operate from the Hall site, providing another simple but well-used community resource.

Fundraising and Finances

Hall hire and fundraising remain important sources of income.

Our fundraising events not only help financially but are also valuable social occasions in their own right. The committee continues to look at opportunities to increase Hall use and income while keeping local hire charges affordable.

This balance is increasingly important as insurance, electricity and other running costs continue to place demands on Hall finances.

Looking Ahead

Over the coming year our priorities will be to continue improving the Hall and its facilities. Following the successful installation of our new battery storage system for the solar panels, we will look to **sell the old surplus batteries** which are no longer required.

We will also **complete the remaining insulation work to the Hall**, building on the energy-efficiency improvements already made.

We will complete the remaining purchases and reporting associated with our SPEN grant, continue to support and develop the Film Club, encourage greater use of the Hall and look for opportunities to increase income while keeping the Hall affordable for community use.

Alongside these developments, we will continue to manage the building as efficiently and sustainably as possible and identify further improvements where they are needed.

Most importantly, we want the Hall to remain an accessible, welcoming and well-used community space.

Buildings like ours only work because people use them and because volunteers are willing to give their time to keep them running.

I would therefore like to thank all the members of the Village Hall Committee for their work and support during the year, as well as everyone who helps with events, activities, maintenance, fundraising and all the many small jobs that happen quietly behind the scenes.

I would also like to thank everyone who hires the Hall, attends events or simply supports what we do. Every booking, class, meeting, film night and community event helps to keep the building active and sustainable.

There is always more to do, but I think we can be pleased that **Tweedsmuir Village Hall continues to be a well-used and valued community asset**, and I look forward to seeing how it develops over the coming year.

Lesley Mason

Chair

Tweedsmuir Village Hall Committee

September 2026



27/9/2026

Frances Leckie, Secretary

27/9/2026