

## Gattonside Village Hall Chair's Report 2025-26

The hall has continued to be well used over the year. Whilst some regular users have stopped, new users have started to make use of our facilities. We are grateful to all those clubs and groups who support the Hall through their regular use.

The Committee has organised a range of events over the year, including coffee mornings, soup lunch, and a quiz night, which was a great success. These are important not only as a means of bringing villagers together but also as a support for our fundraising. The Carol Concert has become established as a popular annual event, and we are grateful to John Wilson and Mikey Woods for their organisation of it. It is good to have a range of ages from babies upwards enjoying a festive event. As always, we are grateful to Eileen and Alastair Buchan for the use of their paddock for the bonfire and fireworks night. The pumpkin competition had a good number of impressive entries. We had planned to hold a summer BBQ, but this had to be cancelled due to poor weather. We will try again and resort to tables in the Hall in the case of more bad weather! A bridge afternoon was hosted, and feedback was very positive, so it is likely that this will be a recurring event. We are always interested to hear from villagers as to ideas of what sort of events you would like to see in the programme.

The Chat Room continues to be well attended and is valued as an opportunity for villagers to get together for a blether, a coffee, and a cake. Thanks to Fiona Dawson for her organisation and to her regular helpers. Thanks also to those who attend for their generous donations.

As the Treasurer will report, we are fortunate to have a healthy bank balance, but we are always conscious of the fact that the Hall is ageing and will always need us to keep on top of maintenance; therefore, fundraising will of necessity continue to be a priority for the committee.

Whilst the function of the committee is to manage the Hall, we have been able to facilitate meetings about the proposed Battery development on the edge of the village, which has now been abandoned. More recently, we facilitated opportunities for villagers to learn more about the plans which Fortis Homes have for the redevelopment of the Gattonside House site. If this goes ahead, it will increase the population of the village and hopefully support from new residents for the Hall.

Finally, as always, my thanks go to the members of the Hall Committee, who are also Trustees of the Charity, for their unstinting enthusiasm and work to support events throughout the year.

Sandy Cameron  
Chair.