

Annual Report to Denham Parish Council on Denham Village Hall from Denham Community Council May 2026

From May 2025 up until formal opening of the Hall on 31st August 2025 saw much effort from both **Denham** PC and the Denham CC in finalising building snags, ensuring safety features were in place and the site properly insured. That the all-important entertainment and alcohol licence and music licence were operational and the formal agreement between the DPC and the DCC on the terms of our responsibilities regarding the management of the facilities were concluded.

History of events since opening the Village Hall

The Grand Opening on 31st August last year was a huge success. Denham's local celebrity Mackenzie Crook helped promote and open the event with around 200 attendees and a double page spread in the Diss Express!

Since opening, the hall has been running a highly successful coffee morning every Thursday that has seen visitors from far and wide as well as regular neighbours and local groups.

Friday Bar Nights at the newly named **Guardroom Bar** have been less well attended at times, however hopefully this has been due to the cold dark Winter nights. We are now planning to hold regular Themed Bar Nights, to include BBQ nights over the summer months to tempt people out!

The Christmas buffet disco party was very well attended as was a recent Quiz Night, which we plan to now run every quarter. The new Games afternoon every Friday has also been a success, with people from neighbouring villages joining in.

The Denham Church had a busy Wreath making workshop and they have organised a musical Bingo evening in May.

We have hosted several private parties and the local Shoot plans to hold a V Hall fund raising Clay Pigeon event hosted by us this season.

One of our volunteers has done some research on the history of the building and its previous life as the Horham American Airbase Guardroom and has put together an interesting permanent display in the Hall. We are keen to promote the Hall's history and if any parishioners have any memorabilia, photos or stories they can share please let us know.

We were also pleased to be able to reinstate the Hall's support to the Red Feather Club Open Days by having the VH Guardroom open on these dates.

Finances and future planning

The Trustees and treasurer have been able to make an informed assessment of the annual ongoing costs of running the Hall after having been operational for 8 months and now have a clear idea of the amount of revenue we need to accrue in order to meet these costs as well as have sufficient funds to run the project and allow for cost of wear and tear and replacement of goods. The DCC is confident, given the revenue accrued to date and set against a costing that allows for periods of less income and greater expense, that there are currently sufficient funds going forward to make the V Hall a viable going resource for the village and wider community. There are also aims to improve the outside areas and provide more storage facilities, but this will require further fundraising activities.

Summary

The Trustees and Community Council are pleased that the Hall is being used as intended, by local groups, the neighbourhood community and wider community. There remains much scope for further development such as activities for young people, computer skills, arts, music and craft events.

There is currently a small core of volunteers running the bar and coffee mornings, keeping the building clean and tending the outside areas but we do need more people to help out and we are keen to remind parishioners that this is their Hall and we are always looking to encourage people to get involved, join the committee or just help out as and when.