

Badminton Group

Sedgwick Badminton Group continue to meet every Monday evening in the village hall between 7pm and 9pm. We make use of the kitchen facility to make tea and coffee and store our equipment in the storeroom (net and two metal poles).

I am delighted to report that we continue to attract a regular attendance of around ten players every week and four new members joined us this month.

Each attendee pays £2 per week, which is used to purchase shuttlecocks, refreshments and pay for the hire of the hall.

We would welcome anyone who is interested in playing badminton with us. If you require any more information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Creative Embroidery Group

Our creative embroidery group has been going since 2011, and although our numbers are down to eight we are still meeting as a group.

Our latest project was modern folk embroidery using felt with hand embroidery resulting in many varied pieces of work.

Highland cows were made using tartan fabrics which resulted in quite a herd, which were then completed into cushions, bags or wall hangings.

Last October we had a visit from Nicki Smith, a textile artist who had been working with Crosscraze School. We loved seeing the completed work that had been created by the schoolchildren.

Leading up to Christmas 2024, we all worked on Christmas Wreath hoop art, using the technique English paper piecing, which when completed were either made into hangings or decorative place mats.

Sedgwick Village Hall

After all the activity during 2022 upgrading the heating and the kitchen as well as improvements to lighting and new taps in the washrooms things have been quiet this year. New locks have been fitted and keys distributed. The defibrillator was recalled for a software update and replacement pads have been obtained as required (paid for by Sedgwick Parish Council.)

The main concern this year has been escalating utility bills and expenses. It had been agreed to run the new heaters for a year to assess the costs before considering raising hiring charges. Inevitably some adjustment has been necessary, so they were modestly raised at the beginning of September 2023. Every effort has been made to be proportionate and fair to all users and of course we wish to encourage people to use the hall as much as possible. However the running cost deficit this year was c. £2000. The decision at the AGM in Sept was to increase all hire charges by approx 20%. Of course this is regrettable but necessary.

Some groups have ceased, such as Guides and Quilters, and the Parish Council has reduced use to every 2 months. Currently Lent lunches are popular and coffee mornings are always very lively. At February half term in 2024 the Canal Trust volunteers lived in the hall for 7 days bringing all their gear with them and still being kind enough to make space for daytime activities to continue. Their booking provided a welcome boost to our funds.

Recently the playgroup has been suspended for lack of leaders, but it is hoped it will restart in due course.

We have received additional discretionary reduction of Council Tax to zero, which is a help to our budget.

Clearly the Trustees have to balance the books and ensure the hall remains viable. The Government grants we received as a result of the pandemic lockdown have in part paid for the improvements but cannot be used for ongoing running costs. It is hoped that the deficit incurred last year can be removed so that no further changes are needed.

I am still here as secretary to the Trustees despite stepping down more than 2 years ago as no willing replacement has been forthcoming!

Please support the hall and use it!