

High Halden War Memorial Hall is a registered charity and is administered by a small group of volunteer trustees. The hall was opened in 1921.

Our village hall continues to be well used by our regulars with very few vacant daytime slots. It hosts yoga, table tennis, short mat bowls, ladies' darts, brownies and craft club on a weekly basis and is used regularly by the horticultural society and parish council. Unfortunately, we still have not returned to the pre Covid levels of private bookings for weekend hire. We continue to hold free coffee mornings on the first and third Friday of each month thanks to a regular core of helpers and the magnificent catering efforts of Liz Wheeler. Attendance averages 20 to 25 villagers but it would be nice to see some new faces. We have the Post Office every Friday morning and Citizens Advice on the third Friday of every month. In the early part of last year the Helping Hands group provided free lunches for the community every other Wednesday. This was growing in popularity before the summer break and were hoping they will return this year.

As a further service to the village a defibrillator was installed in one of the hall porches. This was financed by the Parish Council and our county councillor. A prescription box for Ivy Court surgery is also housed in the porch.

Because of rising running costs we reluctantly decided to raise hire fees for all users from the 1st of January this year. This is the first increase for regular hirers since 2020 but we are very competitive with other halls in the area. Our finances remain healthy but grants will be needed to help carry out future projects which include upgrading insulation and heating systems.

Last year we had a comprehensive building survey carried out. This identified many areas that needed attention, some more urgent than others. We have decided that work on the roof is our first priority. We would like to add a further trustee with some experience in the building industry to manage projects going forward.

John Sargent
Chair of the Trustees