

## Whatlington Village Hall Usage, February 2023 – February 2024

The past year has been a busy one for hall usage and has seen increased income generation through hiring fees.

In February 2023 there were four regular hirers using the hall over the week. This has now increased to seven. Presently the hall is used from Monday through to Saturday by weekly hirers. Friday evenings also see ad-hoc use by bands for band practice and there have been several weekend children's parties held at the hall during the year. Feedback from those seeking to use the hall for children's parties, is that the venue is rather on the small side. This could be impacting on take up for this type of event, as we are very close to Sedlescombe Village Hall that can accommodate more people for events.

As well as birthday parties the hall has been used for a Funeral Wake, two fundraising events for the Sarah Lee Trust, family gatherings, polling days (held twice in 2023), church and church choir events, Parish Council meetings and as a meeting venue for the NHS and other local societies (Bowls/Gun Dog). The Hall also hosted the local MP Huw Merriman and a group from National Highways to discuss road safety concerns via the Parish Council.

The Village Hall Committee held their annual Summer Fayre and Festive Supper again and there has been a Valentines Quiz evening hosted by the Whatlington Connectors. The Whatlington Connectors have also established a community craft group who meet on Wednesday mornings in the hall.

The majority of the users of the hall reside in the village or are connected to groups within the village. Others are local to Battle and its surrounding villages – e.g. Netherfield, Sedlescombe.

The aim for the Village Hall Committee for the coming year is to increase the number of community events for villagers, whether hosted by the committee themselves or as the venue provider for groups.