

Secretary's Report for Knowbury Memorial Hall AGM on Tuesday 14 October 2025 at 7.30 pm

Knowbury Memorial Hall has had a very busy year with the regular weekly bookings of Ballet, Fitness/Dance classes on Monday and Tuesday mornings, fortnightly Home Education sessions on Wednesday mornings, Table Tennis and Pickleball sessions and matches on other evenings too, monthly fortnightly Thursday afternoon Library teas and some Caynham Parish Council Meetings. The popular monthly Quizzes run by Helen and Alan Jones also continue but without use of the Bar.

Children's and Adult parties and Discos, Young Farmers' Meetings, Bring and Buy Sale, Local Elections Polling venue, a wedding and a Family Get Together Weekend have also been amongst other bookings during the year. The annual successful Wreath Making Workshop was once again held in November. A successful Christmas fair was re-introduced after not being held for some years in November. A new monthly Games Café run by Suzanne and Oscar was held during the winter months. Another new regular booking is the Beginner's Ballroom Dancing Class on Monday evenings. A Tai Chi Class also ran for a few weeks but sadly there was not enough support and it had to be cancelled. It was decided to hold Social Nights to include food in the Bromley Arms Bar on Thursday evenings when the Bennett's End was closed. Due to its success, it is continuing to be run. Other new regular social occasions introduced at the Hall are the monthly Coffee Mornings and Breakfast Clubs held every two months. Alison and Tony organise the Coffee Mornings with their helpers, both donating cakes and helping on the day. Polly, Sharon and Juliet (when able) have been cooking the delicious breakfasts with help from committee. Both these events have proved popular with villagers and those outside the village.

It has been a very busy year with fundraising events and the first one was the annual Bonfire and Fireworks Evening held on Saturday 2 November. This was once again a successful evening and thanks are given to the Williams family for the use of their field. In addition to the £5 token payment, £50 was given to Bevarly towards the Upkeep of the Field Fund. Thanks to committee members and all the local volunteers who worked so hard before, during and after the event. The sparkly/glow in the dark items were very popular with the children. The Christmas Fair was brought back after some years, this time arranged by Suzanne and Christine. Peter acted as Father Christmas accompanied by Sharon and Amelie as his busy elves. Thanks to Suzanne and Christine and everyone both on Committee and Volunteers who worked so hard to make this a success. Jenny once again kindly organised a Carol Singing evening on Saturday 21 December and it was good to see so many adults and children join us. Mulled wine was kindly prepared by Tamzin and Julian and distributed to adults when the singers arrived at Collybrook. Proceeds went to Cleobury Community Hub. The singers once again finished at Bennetts End and donations went to Cleobury Community Hub. A new event was the Burns Evening held on 25 January. Thanks go to Tamzin and Juliet for organising this successful evening and all those who helped, both Committee members and volunteers including the young waiters and waitresses who all worked so hard during a busy evening. Hopefully we may see them on the Committee in years to come. Tickets have already been sold for 2026! Another new idea was the Masquerade Ball held on 7 June once again organised by Tamzin and Juliet. This was yet another successful evening with everyone looking so elegant and smart in their evening attire and masks. Thanks once again to Tamzin, Juliet, all committee and volunteers and the young people of Knowbury who once again worked hard to make an enjoyable evening. As usual the bar staff were kept very busy. The final fundraiser evening was Oktoberfest held on 4 October once again organised by Tamzin and Juliet. Thanks to them and all committee and non-committee members who worked so hard to bring the evening together. In addition to these fundraising events, two free events were held during the year. The first one was the Charlie Russell Trio Jazz Band on 2 May and then the Blues Night on 30 August. Attendance was not great but those there enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Dave who booked the Bands and all those who helped on the night.

In addition to all these exciting events being held, the Committee and volunteers have been very busy carrying out many improvements to the Hall. Following the installation of the new kitchen last year, the new Bromley Arms Bar was installed by these hard workers. Jules created the lovely bar. This was a

magnificent achievement by all those involved and is a cosy room to enjoy social evenings. For those who do not know, The Bromley Arms was named after Dorothy Bromley who is a Life President and long serving member of the Committee and has always worked hard for the Community. This was followed by re-decoration of the Hall by the same willing bodies. Thanks to all these hardworking teams. A horsebox which has been converted into an outside bar was purchased during the year. This was going to be used for the first time at the Oktoberfest but due to the bad weather forecast, it was decided not to go use it. Hopefully it will be used for many events next year.

With regard to the Committee, Tamzin is still working hard as Chairman which is not an easy task. Sadly we lost Helen as Vice Chairman last year and Dave as Treasurer in June. Thanks go to them for all their hard work over the years. Juliet took over from Dave and is continuing to keep the Finances in order. Christine took over from Amy as Bookings Secretary at Christmas and works hard looking after the bookings. Jenny also resigned as Publicity Secretary and Sharon has taken over her role as well as helping Christine with the Bookings. Jules, Peter, Ken and Steve have continued to maintain the hall and help whenever needed, and were also some of the main men behind all the improvements during the past year. Polly also helps whenever needed and cooks a great breakfast! Steve and Polly have now resigned from the Committee but are still keen to help out as they have in the past when they can. Alison as Bar Manager does a great job in keeping the Bar running efficiently, with Tony's help when available, and they also run the successful Coffee Mornings. Amy continues keeping the Hall clean with other committee members helping with a deep clean when necessary. Hwyl helps with anything required when available. I must also give thanks to Suzanne and Oscar who have also resigned from the Committee. They were not on for long but were greatly involved with the Hall improvements and also ran the Games Café. A special mention must go to Sandra and James Cash who keep the outside pots looking so good all year round and also tidy up around the outside when they can. James was also one of the bar and decorating of the Hall team. Also to Kevin Wholey for auditing the Accounts, Caynham Parish Council who arrange the grass cutting, Andrew Allen for cutting the hedges, Mark Shakespeare who helps build and clear the bonfire every year, Dawn who helps with cooking at the Social Evenings and her and Derek Smith for helping in the Bar when required, Bruce for waiting on at Social evenings, Chris Briggs and Derek Bowen who help out when required and Adam for the use of his lorry lifting the horsebox from road to the rear of the Hall. Thanks also to all those who man the bar and the young people who wait on and wash up and collect glasses when required, especially when it is a busy event!

Thanks to them all and any volunteers who I may have accidentally omitted to name who all work so hard to keep the Hall running. The Committee is very grateful to them all. Maintenance costs would be so much higher without their help. Also thanks to everyone for attending this evening and who has supported the Hall in any way during the last year. It is very much appreciated and we look forward to seeing you at the Bonfire and Fireworks Evening on Saturday 8 November.