

TUDDENHAM ST. MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE HALL REPORT YEAR ENDING 31.03.2026

As reported in my December report, the Village Hall continues to provide a valuable resource for the residents of Tuddenham St Martin and for visitors from the wider area. Bookings remain healthy and we typically receive around £9,000 in booking fees in the year and thanks to the careful management of our treasurer, Ian Watson, we have accrued reserves of over £40,000. However, this is set against variable costs (over £6,200 last year, but £12,200 the year before). The costs vary because of necessary maintenance projects and the rising cost of insurance, for example.

This year we are looking into the possible costs of replacing the asbestos ceiling tiles in the hall lobby. It might be possible to retain the tiles and just have signage alerting people to their presence, and arrange for yearly inspections, However, it may be better in the long run to have the tiles replaced and give the lobby an uplift in the process. We're in the middle of getting quotes at the moment.

Sadly there was an accident this year when a decorator attending to the paintwork on the exterior of the hall fell off the hall's step ladders and broke his arm. The decorator has put in a claim against the hall's insurance, claiming that the hall committee have been negligent by failing 'adequately or at all to devise, institute, or maintain any adequate system for the inspection, maintenance or repair of faulty or defective equipment. As chairman, I have conceded that we don't have a written inspection log for the ladders, but stated that the ladders are used frequently in the hall, and that I used them myself on February 6th and there was no problem with them then. The matter is currently with our insurers and their solicitors.

As ever, I'm most grateful for the support of the committee. In particular, I'd like to thank David Lugo for all the work that he does on maintaining the grounds. Ian Watson not only performs the role of Treasurer admirably but also assists David with keeping the hall grounds tidy, manages the parking spaces, and regularly checks on the fire alarm system. Lastly, I thank Jo Tickle for her diligent work as secretary.

Adrian Frost 1 May 2026