



Whitehouse Village Hall

Space for all

Indoor and Outdoor Event Venue

CHAIRPERSONS REVIEW

WVH AGM 24th November 2025

Abstract

This Chairperson's Report provides an overview of Whitehouse Village Hall's activities, achievements, and challenges from October 2024 to November 2025. It highlights fundraising successes, hall usage, and the dedication of committee members and volunteers. The report addresses rising costs, the importance of compliance, and the need for broader community involvement to ensure the hall's sustainability. Members are encouraged to reflect on the hall's value to the community and consider how they can contribute to its future success.

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1. Executive Summary

This Chairperson's Report provides an overview of Whitehouse Village Hall's activities and progress from October 2024 to November 2025. Over the past year, the hall has hosted a range of successful fundraising events and welcomed regular and occasional users, contributing significantly to its financial stability and community spirit. The dedication of committee members and volunteers has been central to maintaining and improving the hall, despite rising costs and increasing operational challenges.

Looking ahead, the report highlights the need for broader community involvement to ensure the hall's sustainability. With operating costs rising and volunteer fatigue becoming a concern, the continued success of Whitehouse Village Hall will depend on active participation from the wider community. Members are encouraged to reflect on the hall's value and consider how they can contribute to its future.

2. Introduction

I am pleased to present the Chairperson's Review for Whitehouse Village Hall covering the period since the last AGM, which was held 28th October 2024 through to today (24th November 2025).

The past year has been a busy and challenging time at the Village Hall, supported by several hard-working members of the Village Hall Committee, villagers, friends and family.

3. Charity Mission and Objectives

Our mission remains to provide a welcoming and accessible space for community activities, events, and social engagement. All our efforts this year have focused on maintaining and improving the hall to serve the needs of local community.

4. Key Achievements and Highlights

4.1 Fund raising

In the last year, we have held several successful fundraisings events.

- The three soup lunches since the last AGM (Nov 24, Feb 25, Apr 25). continue to be a resounding success, thanks mainly to the culinary skills of Tan Black, Margaret Pratt and others. We are also blessed with Tan's cake and dessert-making skills. Special thanks to all those who contributed and helped. Together, we have created the extravaganza that is Whitehouse Village Hall's soup lunches! (Those 3 events raised £1,900!)
- Our perennial Grow and Show events, we held two events: the Plant Sale (Jun 25) and the annual gardening show event in August. Both events raised around £1,300 for the village hall funds. What started as a simple means of swapping plants has turned into a main event for the Village Hall, supported by many from

near and far. Our thanks go out to the Grow & Show subcommittee headed up by Amanada Curley, Dorothy O'Donnell, Susie Coon and others. It should not be underestimated just how much time and effort goes into making the Grow & Show events the great success that they are, so thank you one and all.

- In February 2025, we held a quiz night with our very own quiz master, Michael O'Donnell supported by Dorothy, creating a fun evening for all attendees, raising £200 in the process.
- Back in November 24 we hosted a Jazz night which was well attended and enjoyed by one and all. Whilst this event only raised £141 it was something new. The good news is that we have arranged for Ian Miller and Domonic Spencer to come back again on Friday 27th November 2026.
- Since the last AGM we have held two Artisan Festive Craft Fairs, in total both events have raised £1,021. Many thanks go out to Dorothy O'Donnell who single handily schedules and manages these events.

In total those fund-raising events have raised £4,600! So, thank you to each and every one of you who contributed and helped to achieve such a fantastic sum!

4.2 Use of the Village Hall | Hall Rentals | Regular Users

Unfortunately, we lost our Thursday morning Pilates Class (Jacqui Barker), but I am pleased to say that Kath Nisbet has taken over the mantle and runs her Pilates class every Monday.

The Fyne Acting Company has for some time now been a regular user of the VH, meeting weekly. We wish them continued success.

The Village Hall opens each month on the second Wednesday afternoon, offering a warm place to drop in for a chat, tea, and to share hobby skills and interests.

The local SWI meets on the last Wednesday of the month, most months of the year and the Kintyre Investment Club also meet at the village hall each month.

Our thanks go out to all these groups for their continued support.

4.3 Hall Rentals | Occasional bookings |

As reported in the Treasurers report the village hall has been rented out by a number of organisations since the last AGM:

- Argyll & Bute Council, West Kintyre Community Council, Sloan Builders (Training courses), Alpaca Communications Ltd (proposed battery farm public meeting), West Kintyre Promotions (Piano recital), Art Therapy classes and Private Hires, which included a two charity events in which the Committee supported Diana Cattermole in aid of the Vine Trust.

Since the last AGM Hall Rentals have contributed around £2,800 to the village hall coffers. I would like to thank both the regular users and those occasional users for using our facilities and their continued support, it is very much appreciated.

4.4 2026

The village hall already has a number of events booked in next year:

- Kintyre Promotions, at the request of Dorothy O'Donnell, have arranged for an Evening with The Hebridean Baker, Coinneach MacLeod, to give a talk at WVH (Saturday 7th Feb 2026).
- Kintyre Group SWI (Saturday 14th February)
- Local elections (May 2026), once again the Village Hall will be used as a Polling Centre for both national and local elections.
- Ian and Dominic's Jazz night (Friday 27th Nov 2026)

4.5 Managing and Running the Hall

Each year, the costs of providing a village hall, such as electricity, insurance, and other necessary services, are increasing, each year we review costs to see where savings can be made. But as every household knows everything is just getting more and more expensive.

Our annual costs to keep the lights on

Fire Safety Checks	£ 100.00
Electrical Equipment Tests	£ 220.00
Electricity (estimated)	£ 1,200.00
Heating (Annual maintenance)	£ 150.00
IT Costs	£ 220.00
Internet (contract until 2027)	£ 500.00
Insurance	£ 800.00
PPL PRS	£ 100.00
Misc expenses (Cleaning products)	£ 210.00
	£3,500.00

Any income is generated solely from hall rentals and fundraising events apart from FIT payments which amounts to circa £175 per annum.

The Committee members have maintained the Village Hall keeping it clean and tidy, inside and outside, as well as cleaning gutters. Although the Bats are becoming more problematical and this will be a task for the new committee to look into further.

There are also administrative tasks: Treasurer, Secretary, maintaining the bookings calendar, the Village Hall website and Facebook updates, planning events, and putting up posters etc.

Legislative and regulatory considerations and changes that must be complied with, and regular committee meetings are held to keep everything on track.

5. Acknowledgements

A special mention and thanks to our Secretary, Dorothy O'Donnell, a post Dorothy has diligently carried out for many years, keeping us all in line and everything ticking over. Dorothy also bears most of the heavy lifting when it comes to keeping the hall clean and tidy and is an ever present at every event, more often than not leading from the front. At last year's AGM Dorothy stated her desire to step down from this post at this year's AGM. This, in my opinion, will leave a massive hole for the new committee to fill.

I would like to thank the trustees for their continued support and guidance, and most of all, the members of the village hall committee for their hard work, dedication, and unwavering support over the last year. Their efforts ensure that the Whitehouse village hall continues to hopefully thrive.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed their time, skills, and resources to support Whitehouse Village Hall. Your efforts make a real difference to our community.

6. Looking Ahead

Before closing, I would like to reach out to everyone in our Whitehouse community. The village hall is a wonderful gift bestowed upon us, a gift that can keep giving for generations. However, its continued success depends on the involvement and support of each and every one of you.

Village halls remain vital community assets across Scotland and the UK, serving as hubs for social, cultural, and educational activities, especially in rural areas. They underpin local democracy, host events, and support wellbeing and resilience.

Challenges are increasing:

- Many halls, including Whitehouse, face rising running costs (energy, insurance, maintenance) and the ongoing challenge of securing sustainable funding.
- Volunteer fatigue is a real issue, with a small number of committee members often bearing the brunt of management and fundraising. Sector bodies and case studies highlight the need for broader community involvement.
- National organisations such as SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) and Foundation Scotland report declining engagement in some communities, with fewer people attending events or stepping up to help, especially in areas with ageing populations or changing demographics.

To secure the future of Whitehouse Village Hall, we need more people to get involved. You don't have to join the committee to make a difference—even sparing an hour or two each month to help with maintenance tasks, support events, deliver leaflets, or put up posters would ease the burden on our core team. No experience is necessary, and any help, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated. Simply contact us through the Whitehouse Village Hall website or Facebook page.

If you would like to play a more active role, we warmly invite you to join the committee and contribute in any way you can. It is not fair or sustainable to rely on the same dedicated core team year after year.

Each year it gets harder, but with the community coming together to support the village hall, we can ensure this legacy remains for Whitehouse, its families, and future generations.

Community Call to Action:

The continued success and sustainability of Whitehouse Village Hall depend on the active involvement of our local community. Whether you can assist with fundraising events, offer practical support, or contribute new ideas, your participation will make a real difference. If we are unable to broaden the base of support and share responsibilities more widely, there is a genuine risk that the future of the hall will need to be reviewed in the coming years. I encourage everyone who values this important community asset to get involved and help secure its future.

As we look to the future, I am confident that with the continued support and involvement of our community, Whitehouse Village Hall will remain a vibrant and welcoming hub. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has contributed their time, energy, and enthusiasm over the past year.

Copies of all documents discussed at today's meeting are available on the Whitehouse Village Hall website: <https://www.whitehousevillagehall.org/agm>

Thank you

Tony Schiffman
Whitehouse Village Hall | **Chairman**
24th November 2025