

DVH COMMITTEE REPORT

May 2025 to May 2026

Over the past year, the DVH Committee has organised and supported a wide range of community events. These activities have helped strengthen community links, increase use of the Hall, and raise funds to support ongoing maintenance and improvements.

Events and activities

VE Day Celebrations in Diddlebury

In May we held VE Day Celebrations in Diddlebury, in collaboration with Corvedale School. It was a sunny bring-your-own picnic, with many people dressing in 1940s outfits; however, attendance was lower than hoped.

Quiz Nights

Our Quiz Nights continue to attract a large and very loyal group of followers with many of the nights being sell-out events. The combination of Jean's testing quizzes and Kim's compering exuberance make for great quizzing and much fun and laughter and the coveted Rubbish Prizes have become a feature.

Quizzes were held in June, September, October, February, March and April with the Grand Christmas Quiz attracting a sell out in December.

Diddlebury Open Gardens

Held at the end of June 2025 this was a hugely successful event where 11 gardens were on show in Diddlebury, Corfton and one at Pedlars Rest. A successful marketing campaign attracted several hundred visitors from far and wide. The Tea Rooms in the Hall was full of visitors enjoying home-made cake and drinks and the Plant Sale attracted many buyers. The event raised a substantial sum of money and provides vital funding; however, as it only runs every three years, that income is not available in the intervening years.

Hall maintenance working party

In August, a working party of committee members and volunteers gave up their time to paint our Main Hall, improving the appearance of the building and supporting long-term upkeep and saving DVH funds with our DIY skills.

DVH Movie Nights

The committee has continued to support film screenings, including "Flicks in the Sticks"-style events. Thanks go to Eileen Matthey for sourcing and managing these evenings which provide accessible local entertainment and have remained a valued part of the hall's programme. Thanks also to volunteers Derek Matthey and Russell Simm for taking on the role of Projectionist this season.

DVH Movie Nights were held in: October, November, January, February, March and April.

Tabletop Sale

Our first Tabletop Sale was a sell-out success, with tables booked by both locals and from further afield thanks to extensive advertising. Refreshments—including bacon baps—were exceedingly popular and helped boost the considerable funds that were raised. It is hoped to repeat this event in the Autumn.

Social evenings

We held five social evenings which were well supported and enjoyed by all. However, ticketed events continue to be a challenge, with many people only buying tickets in the final few days, making planning catering and staffing more difficult.

- **Harvest Supper** *ticketed* (a collaboration with St Peter's Church) – hog roast and music from Kitty and Garry.
- **Chilli & Live Music Night** *ticketed* – home-cooked Chilli with jacket potatoes donated by a local farmer, and live music from Jon Crowe and Mick made for a highly enjoyed evening .
- **Stefano's Hootenanny** – seeing in the New Year with members of the community. Enjoyable but not well supported this year.
- **Pub and Food Night** – food from the Street Food Collective and music from our house band, Rockfall. This was well supported and enjoyed by all.
- **Pub and Food Night** – a relaxed pub style evening with particularly good Indian food from The Indian Melting Pot. A good playlist of music and a slideshow of Clare's photos of India helped create a great atmosphere.

Carol Singing beside the Diddle Brook

A lovely start to the Christmas season: the community sang carols by the Diddle Brook, accompanied by a brass band, before returning to the Hall for mulled wine, mince pies, and a festive set from Dee Bache's Brass Band.

Fundraising and community benefits

Over the past year, the DVH Committee has delivered a varied and successful programme of events. These activities have:

- Strengthened community spirit
- Increased use of the Hall
- Generated important income

All committee-run events contribute to the Hall's long-term financial sustainability. Income raised helps to support:

- Building maintenance and refurbishment
- Equipment improvements (including a new commercial dishwasher and a full-size display fridge for the bar and a much-needed new Sign for DVH)
- General operational costs

The success of these events relies on volunteer support. Help from the community is essential to keep events running smoothly and enjoyable for everyone. Namely:

- Event set-up and clear-up
- Bar and kitchen support
- General help during events

Thanks, and volunteering

The Committee would like to thank all volunteers, performers, partners, and everyone who attended and supported events throughout the year.

Challenges we face

While the year's events programme has been successful, there are a few practical challenges that affect planning and delivery:

- **Late ticket sales for ticketed events**, which makes it difficult to plan catering, staffing, and costs with confidence.
- Whilst an increase in evening party bookings is incredibly positive it does create more demand for bar shifts and set-up/close-down support.
- **Volunteer capacity**: many activities depend on a small number of regular helpers, so additional volunteers would reduce pressure and improve resilience.
- Up-front purchasing and stock planning for the kitchen and bar (and other supplies) is harder when attendance numbers are uncertain until the last few days.

We would encourage supporters to buy tickets earlier where possible, and anyone able to help with occasional volunteering—especially bar work—to come forward so we can plan confidently and keep events enjoyable for everyone.

Funding Needs

To keep the Hall well maintained, compliant and welcoming—and to support our growing programme of bookings and events—we need to continue raising funds and, where possible, build reserves for planned works and unexpected repairs.

- **Routine maintenance and repairs**: decoration, small building repairs, and ongoing upkeep. New flooring in toilet areas to replace the incorrectly and badly fitted flooring which is now a safety hazard.
- **Planned improvements**: priority projects for the coming year – upgrading kitchen equipment.
- **Equipment replacement and upgrades**: to replace key items for kitchen including new ovens, hob, and replacement sink.
- **Compliance and safety costs**: inspections, servicing, and any required upgrades to meet regulations.
- **Contingency/reserves**: setting aside funds to cover unexpected costs and protect the Hall's long-term viability.

Volunteering Needs

- **Practical skills and artisan help**

We have incurred large bills for building and infrastructure repairs in the past year, particularly electrical work. We would love to attract volunteers with practical skills (e.g., electrical, plumbing, carpentry, painting/decorating, general maintenance) to help us carry out small jobs safely and reduce costs in future.

If you can offer practical help, please let a committee member know what skills you have and when you might be available. Any work will be coordinated by the Committee and, where appropriate, carried out by competent/qualified people in line with safety requirements.

- **Bar work**

With evening party bookings increasing, we now need more volunteers to help with bar shifts. If you can support us (even occasionally), please speak to a committee member so we can add you to the rota and share the bar guidance.

We will continue to meet these needs through a mix of hall hire income, fundraising events, and bar takings. We will also explore grant opportunities and welcome donations and sponsorship where appropriate. Support through volunteering (particularly for bar work and practical skills) helps maximise the return from events and reduces costs.

Kim Simm on behalf of Team DVH

13th May 2026