

## Lound Village Hall 2025-2026

This year has been eventful. We received a grant for the National Lottery at the end of May for our Solar Panels with a battery backup. These we installed in early July and have made a considerable reduction in our operating costs. Following this we looked at the Hall refurbishment plan aiming for our 30th birthday celebrations this June. Our first look was replacing the windows. We applied for a grant to replace all from East Suffolk. This was successful in October and these have just been replaced, improving the existing windows but also enhancing the main window on the front entrance but more importantly improving the fire exit from the archive room on the first floor.

With this update the upstairs area has been improved by redecorating, led by Stuart and Wendy and a carpet laid with help from Councillor Paul Ashdown's Enabling Communities budget. The next stage will be to put in a small sink to allow hot drinks to be made so saving interruption downstairs by using the kitchen. The lighting has also been replaced by Brian which makes this a much brighter area. There has also been a replacement in the kitchen for our aging fridge which has been replaced by a Fridge and a separate Freezer. Our next area to look at will be replacing the downstairs floor and improving the loos. Thank you to Eilenn for keeping the Hall in such good shape.

Outside the Hall the hedges have been done by Dan Goldsmith and the new car park to the East of the Church is now in use. Thank you to Jonathan for looking after the Green. There is still work to do on the entrance to the hard standing. Behind this the old bowling green will be divided into new allotments which will be advertised when ready. It is hoped these will be taken up by new allotment holders trying out the hobby and it is hoped that youngsters might take these up. Simon and Victoria Kibblewhite have provided expertise in making the large Ash Tree safe ready for the Lound makes music event.

Inside the programme has been busy. Our hires have continued with the addition of Little Glow, a baby sensory group and Fit, Flex Fun an exercise group on a Tuesday morning slot that is proving popular. We also have hirings from Lapwing Education. The Lound Community has again been very active this year thanks to Wendy. Lound Makes Music was again very successful again as was a second daylight disco. A new venture was a Christmas Concert which raised £500 for the Louise Bacon Centre at the JPH. The Warm Room has again attracted a steady flow of folk escaping the winter gloom!

In June we will celebrate 30 years of the Hall being built which we will mark by putting on a tea party. We are hoping to contact as many of the original team that built the hall so well all those years ago, On this note we would like to mark the passing of Garry Smith who gave so much of his time to the Village Hall Committee and ensuring it was a true community asset. Also of Dr. Hilary Baker who was also a great supporter of the hall. They will be missed greatly