

Mawbray is a small farming village on the Solway Plain in the heart of the civil parish of Holme St Cuthbert situated on the coast, mid-way between Allonby and Silloth. The parish, consisting of Mawbray village and 13 hamlets, has a population of less than 500.

Mawbray Village Hall, also known as Culterham Hall, opened in 1951 and is the centre of activity in the village.

Background

The village hall was extended in 1964, adding a new supper room, and in 2010 the existing kitchen was incorporated into the supper room. The new large kitchen is well equipped and can be used for large social events.

We've recently renovated the hall again, with support mostly from local funders.

The hall has been used for annual pantomimes by a local amateur dramatic group, the latest being a musical evening where local budding singers and dancers took to the stage. It also accommodates many other social events throughout the year, the latest being a Macmillan Coffee Morning and a community run Apple Fest.

In addition to these special events, members of the community run a wide range of clubs and activities including: Indoor Bowls; Keep Fit and exercise classes; weekly Tai Chi group; N.I.A. group (Non-Impact Aerobics); and a popular fortnightly Craft and Chat group. The hall is really well supported by the community.

The hall's major events are our Spring and Christmas Plant and Craft Fairs with our widely known tearoom. People come from far and wide just to sample the home-made delicacies, especially Mary's meat and potato pie!



The Project

We wanted to do something special to thank the funders of our most recent renovation project, so we invited them to an afternoon tea.

We set out the hall with bunting, a good spread and best china - so it was set up as an example of what the hall can look like for hirers, and the bowls mat to show different activities available.

Everyone in the village was invited, as well as our local Parish, District and County councillors. In addition, ACT came along to promote the Solway Coast AONB Management Plan consultation.

What has been achieved?

We celebrated our hall and the funders who have helped us complete the latest renovation project. 27 people attended the celebration event, including several local councillors.



The hall committee with Sue Hayman our local MP

The hall looked great and we enjoyed tea and cake using the beautiful tea service, available for hirers to use for their events. We also enjoyed playing bowls, introducing new people to the game who had never played before, and using the equipment kept at the hall.

Our new pop up banner had pride of place on the day and will be used to promote the hall at a wide range of future community events, and also further afield.

Our local M.P. Sue Hayman was invited but unable to attend due to commitments at Westminster. However she came along a couple of weeks later and was impressed with what we are achieving, suggesting she may even hold surgeries at the hall.

The Learning

Don't underestimate the value of going back to funders to say thank you. We had a group of six ladies from the local charity shop who raise funds for the local community and have supported several of our projects. They joined us for afternoon tea saying they appreciated seeing what had been done with their fundraising and assured us they would support us again if they were able.

ACT champions community and rural issues

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Pop up banner used to promote the hall

Our local councillors joined us and we, and other attendees at the event, were able to chat with them about local issues. The next time we put in a council grant application, councillors will know and understand our offer much better. They may also better appreciate that the village hall can be a good place for discussion of local issues, alongside hosting its many activities.

It is worth remembering that being a village hall trustee can also be enjoyable! While celebrating the funders and involving other people in the community, we had fun!

Contact Details

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