

Carperby Village Institute
Centenary Year
Newsletter ~ February 2026

We are tremendously grateful for our Volunteer Caretakers, John and Joan Hodgson, Wilson and Shelagh Magrath, and Norman and Jan Howard, who keep the Hall clean and tidy, open up and lock up, prepare for and tidy up after events, keep the heating going, and do a lot of maintenance to keep the facilities in good working order and looking tidy. We are pleased that Geoff and Carol Yates have volunteered to join the Caretaking team, and Ken Nicholas and Brian Halliday have agreed to be additional key holders.

This last year we have been particularly grateful for all the additional work the caretakers have taken on to support the refurbishment of the hall. As part of our preparations for the Centenary, the hall has been completely redecorated. In addition, there are new curtains and blinds; the main hall floor has been refurbished with new badminton court lines; the flooring in the kitchen and toilets has been renewed; and the snooker table has a new surface and cover. We were supported in this through a gift from a generous benefactor and a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery.

The online booking system, managed by Sarah Walker, has been a great success and we are pleased that this has brought additional activities to the hall. We are particularly delighted to welcome more children's groups, and to this end have added *Guidelines for Working with Children* to our policies, which can be found on the booking site in the 'documents section' and in the pale blue folder in the hall by the notice board.

For the Centenary, we are planning to hold a celebratory event for the whole village on the first bank holiday, Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May, and an art, photography and crafting exhibition showcasing the many talents in the village in the hall on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th October. Details to follow. Open Gardens will be held on Sunday 28th June 2026.

The AGM, to which all villagers and users are welcome, will be held on Wednesday 25th March. There will be an invitation for tea, coffee, and a look around at the refurbished hall from 6.45pm, before the meeting begins at 7.30pm.

As many of you will know, having contributed, the 'Carperby 2025' booklet has been produced by Maggie Wilcox, Liz Sowter, Anne Moore and Mary Slade with some of the photographs by Mark Ashcroft. Thank you to them for all their hard work bringing this together. This is now available, so please contact one of them if you have not yet received a copy.

Thank you for your continued use of and support of the hall. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.

Village Hall Committee

Chair: David Moore

Vice Chair: Tina Richard

Treasurer: Liz Sowter

Bookings Secretary: Sarah Walker carperbyvi@gmail.com

Secretary: Louise Redshaw lrcarperby@gmail.com

Caretaker: Wilson Magrath