

STORTH HERON HALL & FIELD

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Registered Charity Storth Playing Field - No. 503690

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR - MARIE LEADBETTER

2025 has been a year of reflection, with a focus on efficiency for us at Heron Hall. We have been talking for a while about how we fundraise for replacement equipment, and how we diversify the kinds of events we run. This has meant trying some things that didn't work out - such as Whisky Tasting - and playing with the format of other things that have worked - like our Quiz Night with the bar open for non-quizzers. You'll see more of this kind of thing in 2026!

With the help of Lynda Duff we have explored the possibility of a playground refresh. Ultimately after conferring with others who have worked on similar projects, and discussing with our local users of the field, we have decided to not go ahead with a large fundraising project. There are many of these going on locally and one of our strengths as a group is to put on events which are fun and engaging for the community, meet the aims and objectives of the charity, and generate money to help us maintain and upgrade the hall, and replace equipment. Our approach will be to take changes to the playing field on a case by case basis as needs arise.

I've been particularly impressed this year with the innovation the committee have shown, and the difference it has made in our events - small changes like the branded beer glass scheme and the new fridges increased efficiency in getting drinks into people's hands, which felt like a huge win at our busy Beer Festival. It is important for us to note that we had so many bands willing to volunteer this year, and so many local businesses who sponsored barrels. We are beyond grateful as a committee for the goodwill.

One of the other positive developments this year has been new committee members, Rob Arrowsmith and Bill Kerr, who have taken an active role in the committee - in ideas, events and maintenance. I am also noticing people wanting to take a role in helping the hall - in maintenance and offering other hands-on help, and not necessarily coming to meetings. Our committee member Sarah Lomax has stepped back to do this, and both Lynda Duff and Dave Phelan have been a great help. We would welcome anyone else who wants to be involved but can't commit to our monthly meeting agenda.

As we go into 2026 we will see the election of three new trustees, who will join our existing trustees to help ensure a strong succession plan. Grant Ritchie (Trustee), Tina Bellamy and Tim Wykes bring with them a fantastic balance of experience, knowledge and skills which will help ensure the continued success of the hall and field.

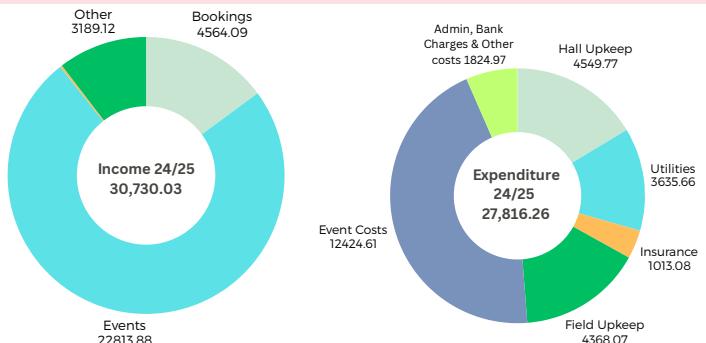
We end this year with our popular Wreath Making event, and our brand new Christmas event, which we are hoping brings something new to the village for the festive season! We look forward to welcoming you all in 2026!



TREASURER'S REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - GRANT RITCHIE

We finished our financial year with cash assets of £20,492. This is an increase of £2,913 from last year and this has been done while we continued to maintain the hall and field as well as further investing in equipment and tools to help us deliver better events for the community. We invested £6221 across a range of items



Overall we have had a good performance given the on-going challenges in the wider economy with costs continuing to rise across all areas. We did well even this year though the good weather we need for our major events did not materialise for the beer festival and our revenues and net income suffered significantly. On the plus side our strategy of increasing the number of other events offset this to deliver a good result. We will continue to hold additional community events in a considered fashion to further spread our sources of income.

We have invested significantly in:

- New goals and nets on the playing field (a big success!)
- Power tools to help us maintain the beds etc (an on-going challenge)
- Heron Hall Branded reusables glasses
- New wine/beer fridges, a new cooker for the kitchen
- Three event canopy tents (key to mitigating the bad weather during the beer festival)
- Deep cleaning of the hall and upgraded cleaning equipment
- New IT equipment for contactless payments

This is of course in addition to the on-going operating costs and annual maintenance activities we need to complete.

We have taken out a 5-year agreement with our existing insurance company and this gives a preferential rate each year. We also will be switching energy supplier in March 2026 to avoid a significant increase from our current supplier.

On the income side Hall Hire revenues were a very good £4654 (last year we benefited from 2 elections hence slight decline. We anticipate further growth going forward. We were also extremely grateful to receive another grant of £1,000 from the Storth Post Office and Village Shop towards new entry doors (which will be imminently fitted!) – these will improve security and insulation. Again, many thanks to them for their on-going support. We also received an anonymous donation of £1000 that we put towards the door purchase – many thanks to the donor!

We held 7 major events in the financial year our Bar Launch Wreath Making, Storth Stampede, a Quiz night, the fete, Beer festival and hosting Tim and Lucy's wedding. These generated revenues of £22,813 in revenues and delivered a net income of £10,389.

It is all down to the dedication and tireless efforts of the committee members, sponsors, event volunteers, and of course the wonderful people and children of Storth that we are able to run and develop our Hall and Field.

Our sincere thanks to all of our supporters, from us all at Heron Hall