# Tollerton War Memorial Institute

Chairperson’s Report 2024-2025

The hall has remained a vibrant community hub this year, hosting a variety of events for the village while also offering space for weekly classes, society meetings, private parties, and countless other activities. Several new classes and events have featured on the calendar over the past year, including ballroom dancing classes and a lecture on the hall’s local battlefield at Myton. It has been lovely to welcome new faces, as well as returning residents, to the hall to showcase our building and community.

The year has been packed with well-loved events, including brunches, afternoon tea, and a standout autumn evening of live music from Snake Davies. On Remembrance Sunday in November, the 1st Kyle Valley Scouts led a parade from the village green to the war memorial outside the hall. In December, Father Christmas returned to the village hall, this time greeted by a cozy Nordic grotto, where everyone enjoyed hot drinks and festive snacks. The ever-popular village brunch on Valentine's Day weekend was a hit, with a raffle raising extra funds for the hall's upkeep.

The village hall committee has also been busy with events around the village. The annual ‘Duck Race’ was a huge success—once it finally took place! After being delayed until June due to spring flooding on the Kyle, which would have sent the ducks all the way to Newton, race day arrived with perfect weather and plenty of spectators cheering on the sponsored ducks. Meanwhile, the ‘Build a Boat’ competition in August attracted a whole new group of competitors, with even more addresses already gearing up for next year’s entries!

This year, the hall’s maintenance has included long-term projects, including the completion of the replacement of the hall’s gutters and facias (ongoing from 2023-4). A big thanks to Nick and Tim for overseeing this upgrade to the building’s exterior. The front parking entrance has also had some small improvements to enhance curb visibility, and there are plans for more work on both the front and rear access in 2025-6. This will be supported by a grant from North Yorkshire County Council to help improve disabled access.

A big thank you to the committee - Yvonne, Marie, Barbara, Janette, and Sally - alongside partners Nick, Murray, Ken, and Graeme, and bowls rep Ian, for all the hard work they have put into the hall this year. If anyone is interested in volunteering, whether as a committee member or just to lend a hand at events, please do get in touch with our friendly team!

Rachael Whitbread

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3 April 2025.