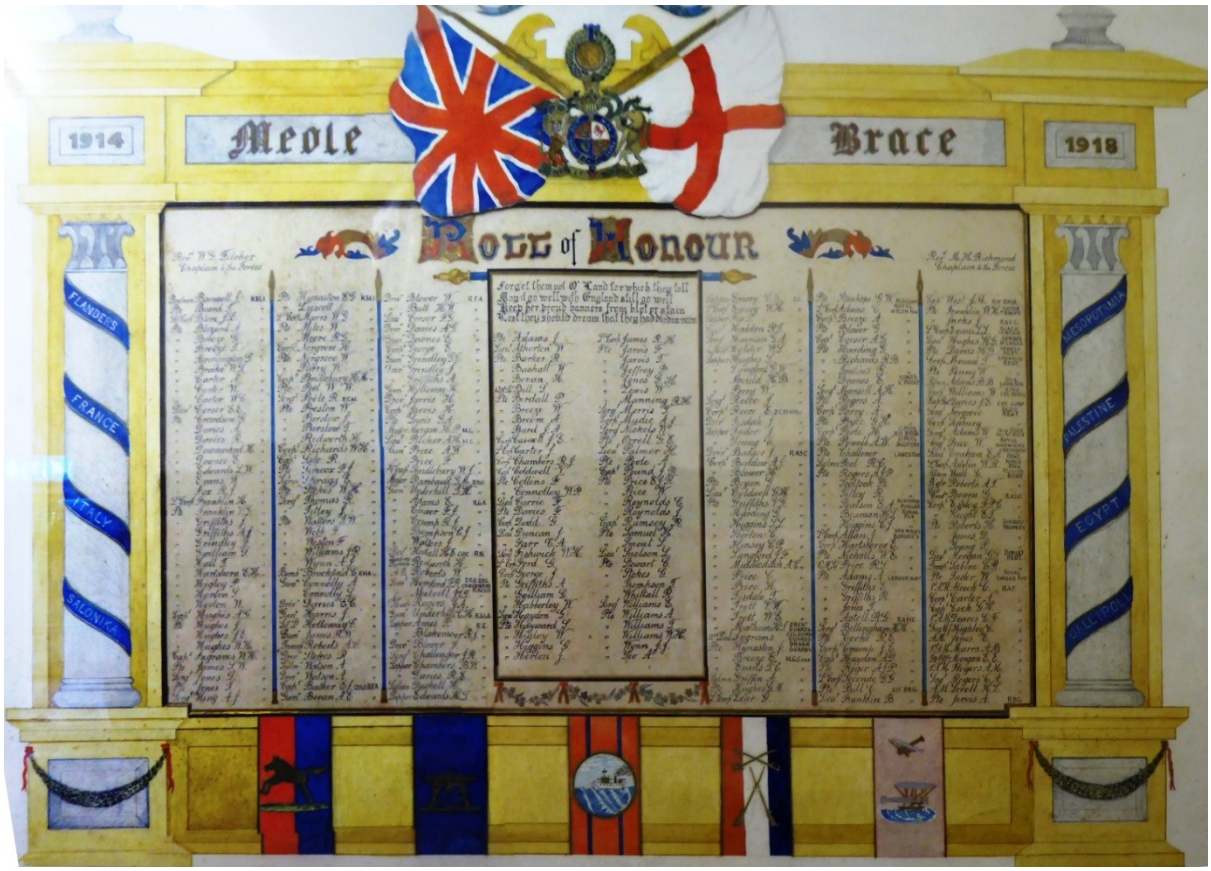
# Annual Report of Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall Charity Reg no. 1170090 January 1st to December 31st 2025



**Address:** Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall, Upper Rd, Shrewsbury SY3 9JP
**Trustees:** Peter Dunhill (Chair), Jane Williams (Treasurer), Andrew Hulme (Website/Facebook), Helen Smart (resigned Dec 2025), Heather Macleod, Karen Stringer
**Management Meeting Attenders/Minutes Receivers:** Ruth Jones (Nobold WI Rep), Clive Goodwin (Meole Brace Garden and Allotment Club Rep)
**Contact for bookings:** Peter Dunhill 07392 571053, email meolepeacehall@gmail.com
**Banking:** Nat West, Telford Town Centre, Telford
**Insurance cover:** Village Guard (Ecclesiastical) – Property Damage, Employers Liability, Public Liability, Legal Expenses, Trustee Indemnity
**Local authority areas:** Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council
**Facebook page:** https://en-gb.facebook.com/pg/Meole-Brace-Peace-Memorial-Hall-538869346237711/about/
**Website:** https://sites.google.com/site/meolebracememorialhall/home

## Our facilities

The main hall (12.5 x 6m + Stage: 4.8 x 6m) is equipped for a variety of uses including meetings, slide/powerpoint shows, dance, drama, parties, lunches and indoor recreation

- Stage with lighting and curtains.
- Side dressing/green room
- Plenty of stackable tables and chairs.
- Maximum Capacity: 100 people standing, 90 seated
- Wide door and wheel chair access
- Heating

An entrance lobby

A meeting room (4 x 5.7m) that is suitable for committee meetings or refreshments - a semi sound proof partition wall can be opened onto the side of the main hall,

A fitted kitchen with

- Hot water boiler and kettles for drinks
- Fridge
- Electric Cooker
- Microwave

Toilets (male, female, accessible for people with disabilities) and cloakroom area

Plenty of storage space

Off road parking for 8 vehicles + on road parking – we are located in a built up area

## Chairman's Report

This has been a year of new initiatives, improvements and limbo all rolled into one. As we said goodbye and thank you to Trustee Helen Smart, we also welcomed new Trustee Karen Stringer who has been responsible to establishing the once monthly Crafternoon Chat. This activity, accompanied by a £5000 grant, has morphed into the twice monthly Warm Welcome Hub, which is designed to bring local members of the community together to socialise while also being creative and learning about how to keep warm at home and also to prepare for the future.




As a result of obtaining the grant we now have a fully functioning Safeguarding Policy. The promised advice on how to insulate our Hall better has not actually materialised though we do now know that there is significant heat loss through the fire exits thanks to Karen's husband Julian's Heat camera. We need to replace the doors and frames.

Our plans to renew the Hall in one way or another have stalled somewhat as the Town Council have told us that they will not address our request to re-locate with a new build on to Council land until a feasibility study for a new Community Centre on Meole Estate has been completed.

Our local Councillor, Bernie Bentick, did include a couple of questions about a possible relocation in a survey but the process was flawed and the return rate poor. Of those who did respond most were generally in favour though with some reservations. Our own consultation at the Scarecrow Trail Cream Tea event elicited a far more positive response.

In the meantime we have continued a programme of simple improvements with the external paint and wood work partially completed. We have also undertaken basic maintenance tasks such as gutter cleaning, drain clearances and work to follow up our annual inspections. One of our gas heaters stopped working, inevitably in the winter, and this needed an expensive repair. Still with gas we found we needed a bigger pipe for our water heater.

We have really benefitted this year from having a team of committed volunteers who help out with events like the Frost Fayre and Cream Teas and also with maintenance work. We now realise that inviting our dedicated volunteer supporters to become Trustees is a sure way of losing them!

We approached Shrewsbury Men in Sheds to see if they would refurbish our external notice board both with the sign writing and the actual structure. The answer was yes and they've taken it away but they could not say when it

would be done. We are not looking this particular gift horse in the mouth.

Peter Dunhill




## History

Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall was the product of many years' work by a committee formed to try to create a Peace Memorial in memory of the sacrifices made by local people during the First World War.

Early Committee minutes from 1920 record the failure to raise sufficient funds a very ambitious proposal – spare cash for donations was short at the time

The plan was then changed to building a hall on a piece of land opposite The Sycamores (now known as Millford Lodge) to be donated by the Bather family - Lords of the Manor for many years who had provided the vicars of Meole Brace almost continuously between 1778 and 1931. On the back of this donation it was not long before £180 had been raised.

The committee agreed to purchase a hall built of concrete from a Mr Edwards at a cost of £650. It would contain a room 60ft x 20ft wide, a 20ft x 20ft square club room adjoining, a kitchen equipped with a boiler, and ladies' and gentlemen's cloakrooms with lavatory accommodation.



**Bell ringers in Meole Brace c 1920**

The building was soon erected and an opening concert arranged for Thursday October 20th 1921 followed by a whist drive and dance on Friday 21st October. Invitations were sent out to all

householders and ex-servicemen who had lived in the area.

There was a dispute with Mr Edwards about a significant disparity between the original estimate and the final cost. Eventually the matter was resolved amicably through negotiation.

The list of committee members over the years includes the surnames of many well known Meole Brace families: Aris, Ashton, Bather, Burd, Chambers, Cox, Edwards, Evans, Griffiths, Harris, Jones, Massie, Purslow and Tanner

This is an A-Z of just some of the groups and functions that the Hall has hosted over the years:
Alexandra Players - Art Classes - Arts Alive - Auction Sales - Boy Scouts - Bridge Club - Child Welfare Clinic - Choirs - Coronation parties for children - Dancing Classes - Gardening Club - General and Local Elections - Girl Guides - Jazz Band - Martial Arts - Men's Institute - Play Groups - Rummage Sales - Salinka Stars - The Women's Institute - Whist Drives

In 2002 many of the Hall Trustees had lost heart and it seemed as though the Hall might close. Even though there were plenty of bookings this was not matched by any enthusiasm to contribute to the running of the Hall. However a public meeting resulted in the election of a new committee and a great number of improvements were made especially to the entrance and cloakroom areas which had a new concrete floor and also to the heating system.

## Hall usage

**Regular Users during 2025**
*Meole Brace Garden & Allotment Club* –Club talks and Committee meetings
*Nobold Womens Institute* –11 afternoon meetings a year
*Salinka Stars* (young and teenage dance troupe) –4.00-9.00 pm every Thursday
*Puddles Playgroup* –one morning (Friday) every week
*Art Group* –Monday mornings
*Keep Fit and Fitness classes*– Thursday evenings, Friday afternoons, Saturday early morning
*Pilates* – Thursday mornings
*Dance classes* – Tues, Wed, Thurs
*Tai Chi* – Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons
*Bulgarian Folklore Group,* Saturday evenings
*Drumming Workshop* – Sunday afternoons
*Crafternoon Chat* – monthly on 1st Monday
*Meole Village Community Group* – monthly meetings free of charge



The Bulgarian Folklore Group rehearsing a dance

**Occasional Users**
The hall is used as a *polling station* for local and general elections

*Childrens Parties*
*Frost Fayre (Hall fundraiser)*
*Ceilidhs*
*Play and Band rehearsals and performances*
*Singing and Dance grades*
*Home Educators*
*Shropshire Archaeological Association*
*Friends of Palestine*
*Tea and Cakes for local events eg Garden/Scarecrow Trail*



**Booking rates in 2025**
Groups: *£9* per hour, *£27* for half day /evening session
Parties, events depending on time: *£35 - £60*



Frost Fayre 2025

**Frost Fayre and Scarecrow Trail**

Our fourth consecutive November Frost Fayre attracted more people than ever. The hall was brimming with stalls include some outside.
Hall volunteers provided amazing cream teas for participants in the Meole Brace Garden and Scarecrow Trail. A few weeks before, there had been a well attended Screcrow building workshop in the Hall

## Maintenance + Cleaning

We turned our attention from the interior decoration to the exterior of the building and employed the same decorator who did the inside. He made a good start on the work but then both the weather and his availability intervened. The plan is that he will resume work - mostly replacing wooden sills and refurbishing the rear door in May 2026.

Over the course of the year repairs and maintenance work have been undertaken on the toilets and drains, the emergency exits, the main door, the hall floor and the kitchen. The old fridge has been replaced by a much smarter and more recent model donated by a local resident. Peter Williams (husband of our Treasurer Jane Williams) has made a particularly active contribution this year in sorting out electrical issues and cleaning out the gutter between the two pitched roofs. We decided not to pay for a green wheelie bin and now have a leaf mould composting bin.



Sarah Adams, our dedicated and flexible cleaner, has used her two hours a week very efficiently and has been thorough, cheery and conscientious. We have rationalised the cleaning cupboard arrangements resulting on more space.
After finding suspicious droppings we put out mouse traps and caught the culprit.

## Inspections

The Hall has complied with the legal requirement to have annual (electrical) Portable Appliance Tests and a commercial Gas Installation Examination. The Gas Examination revealed a very minor leakage, well below the tolerance level for a pass but still something we will need to keep an eye on.
In addition the fire extinguisher inspection by Snowdonia took place in July.

## Plans for Hall a potential new Hall

Any new Hall will need to improve the use of space, energy efficiency and comfort and in general create a modern and welcoming ambience while retaining the traditional feel of a village hall.

We commissioned an architectural technician to develop a design based on standardised, and therefore economiical, components to help give the local community an idea of what a future new build Hall might look like.



**What a potential rebuild using standard components might look like**




## Summary of Annual Accounts

| **Receipts** | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Hire of Hall | 12453 | 10551 |
| Donations | 8 | 50 |
| Interest | 630 | 325 |
| Fundraising | 1303 | 1328 |
| Electricity meter | 111 | 95 |
| Grants/other | 5000 | 507 |
| ***Total income*** | ***19504*** | ***12856*** |
| | | |
| Current account b/f | 4041 | 5176 |
| Reserve account b/f | 24762 | 21937 |
| | | |
| ***Bank Totals b/ f*** | ***28803*** | ***27114*** |
| Cash in hand b/f | 217 | 457 |
| Stock held | 0 | 50 |
| ***Overall total*** | ***48525*** | ***40477*** |

| **Payments** | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Electricity | 2050 | 884 |
| Gas | 1032 | 2376 |
| Water | 926 | 621 |
| Insurance | 856 | 825 |
| Licences/Subs | 162 | 155 |
| Maintenance/Repairs | 1929 | 4352 |
| Renovation costs | 0 | 275 |
| Cleaning | 1038 | 1196 |
| Fundraising costs | 178 | 172 |
| Consumables | 531 | 387 |
| Printing/Admin | 30 | 215 |
| | | |
| ***Total expenditure*** | ***8732*** | ***11457*** |
| Current account c/f | 8273 | 4041 |
| Reserve account c/f | 31393 | 24762 |
| | | |
| ***Bank Totals c / f*** | ***39666*** | ***28803*** |
| Cash in hand c/f | 127 | 217 |
| Value of Stock held | 0 | 0 |
| ***Overall total*** | ***48525*** | ***40477*** |

**Accounts are prepared on a receipts & payments basis. Detailed inspected accounts are available on request.**




**Treasurer Jane Williams and Trustee Heather MacLeod manning organised games and the raffle at the Frost Fayre**



Salinka Stars are long term regular users of the Hall. We wish them luck in all their activities and competitions



## The Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall

*(Registered Charity Ref 1170090)*

# Financial Statement for the Period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

| ***Receipts*** | ***2025*** | ***2024*** | ***Payments*** | ***2025*** | ***2024*** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hire of hall receipts | 12,453 | 10,551 | Electricity | 2,050 | 884 |
| Donations received | 8 | 50 | Gas | 1,032 | 2,376 |
| Interest received | 630 | 325 | Water | 926 | 621 |
| Fundraising proceeds | 1,303 | 1,328 | Insurance | 856 | 825 |
| Electricity Meter | 111 | 95 | Licences/Subscriptions | 162 | 155 |
| Grants/Other | 5,000 | 507 | Maintenance and Repairs | 1,929 | 4,352 |
| | | | Renovation Costs | - | 275 |
| | | | Cleaning | 1,038 | 1,196 |
| | | | Fundraising costs | 178 | 172 |
| | | | Goods & Consumables | 531 | 387 |
| | | | Admin Costs/Printing | 30 | 215 |
| | | | Expenditure from Grants | - | |
| **Total Receipts** | **19,504** | **12,856** | **Total Payments** | **8,732** | **11,457** |
| ***Bank Balances brought fwd*** | | | ***Bank Balances carried fwd*** | | |
| Current Account | 4,041 | 5,176 | Current Account closing | 8,273 | 4,041 |
| Reserve Acccounts | 24,762 | 21,937 | Reserve Accounts closing | 31,393 | 24,762 |
| **Bank totals brought fwd** | **28,803** | **27,114** | **Bank totals carried fwd** | **39,666** | **28,803** |
| Cash in hand brought fwd | 217 | 457 | Cash in hand carried fwd | 127 | 217 |
| Stock held | | 50 | Stock held | - | |
| **Grand Totals** | **48,525** | **40,477** | **Grand Totals** | **48,525** | **40,477** |

*Notes*

Hall hire income increased by £1,902 this year reflecting upturn in bookings.

Bank interest almost doubled - in March 2025 opened a Liquidity Manager 95 day notice account with £18000. Followed by an additional £6000.

**Fundraising update** - Frost Fayre proceeds exceeded previous years raising £1005 less £146 costs making an overall profit of £859
Refreshments from Scarecrow trail raised £221, and History walks proceeds raised £96.50

**Grants received:** Warm Welcome Hub £5,000 received in December 2025

**Maintenance:** £900 spent on re-decorating internal and external (George Ruta), £876 Badnall Heating Gas boiler repairs/replacement