

## HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

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**Date:** Monday, 26 September 2022  
**Title:** Public Halls Report  
**Contact Officer:** Venue & Events Officer – Tomas Smith

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### Background

Burwell Hall and the Corn Exchange continued to operate throughout the Summer and are now welcoming back groups who primarily operate during term time.

### Current Situation

Burwell Hall has continued to be busy during the Summer Holidays with many Birthday parties and Wedding anniversaries held with some hirers using the bar which is now staffed and operated by Witney Town Council. As the autumn begins, Burwell Hall can welcome back on average, two groups a day during the week and the same with parties at weekends.

At the Corn Exchange, the café in 1863 has been increasingly busy with a definite regular clientele as well as bringing new people through the door who have never been into the Hall before. The Venue and Events Officer has collaborated with his new assistant in bringing an open mic night as a regular evening booking, as well as looking to develop regular craft coffee mornings.

The Main Hall and Gallery Room have been busy with regular groups over the summer, with new regular bookings coming in from Diabetes Trust and Wild Oxfordshire. From September, the number of term-time groups will also increase as in line with Burwell Hall.

The Main Hall has hosted the Full Monty by Buttercross Theatre Productions with sell out numbers over the four performances. 1863 was opened and maximised potential sales for this event. The focus now turns to their Christmas Panto rehearsals for Aladdin.

There has been interest from individuals who are wanting to display on the walls in the café and have asked if there is a procedure to do this. So far, the Venue and Events Officer has been approached by local artists and local photographers wanting to display and feels that a dedicated system of hire/rental of the space would be beneficial and fair to all. This could be free rental on a rolling month basis, or it could be a hire fee as in other areas of the hall.

The current usage figures, compiled by the Bookings Administrator, are attached for information.

**Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

**Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

**Financial implications**

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- Ongoing running of 1863 and Halls

**Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Options to display local artwork on the walls of Café Bar 1863