

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT year 2016 – 2017

This last year has been a trouble free and quiet year for the Village Hall Committee since the AGM in June 2016 with only one Committee Meeting required on the 12th January 2017. Much of the urgent matters being dealt with by email.

Sue Sulkin continues to do the most incredible job as Bookings Secretary and Treasurer, encouraging and overseeing an ever increasing use of the hall both from the village and outside hirers. It is important to place on record how indebted not just the committee but the whole village are to her and how much we appreciate all that she does to keep the hall running so smoothly.

As a result our finances continue to be healthy and we have been able to easily afford the additional periodic expenses of the NIC/EIC Electric inspection and having the roof windows cleaned along with the regular expenses of Insurance, heating, lighting, cleaning, gardening and having the boiler and Fire Extinguishers serviced.

Similarly, our indebtedness and appreciation very much goes out to Trevor and Jan Marpole who have so willingly responded to repair and maintenance issues throughout the year, the most recent being replacement of the door handles throughout the entrance hall area and with Ian Scott, replacement of damaged and slipped ceiling tiles.

Bookings have gone well with village use predominating, underpinned by our regular hirers of the Lunch Club, our welcome continuation of the Youth Club under its new leader Kate Parish, the Village Café, Lydden Ladies, the Garden Club and art and hugely popular exercise classes of Keep Fit, Pilates and Yoga. The wonderful experiment of a periodic Pop-up-Pub in the hall was a roaring success and showed just how cohesive this village is. Likewise, Artsreach has brought a string of very enjoyable evenings and really valuable remuneration to the Hall thanks to the efforts of Ian and Katharine Scot and Fran Parker.

From outside, elections, mini conferences, the great Piddle Valley performance of Guys & Dolls and other celebrations and parties continue to provide a significant input to our budget. The hall is being well used throughout the year which has enabled us to keep our fees modest....very modest compared to village halls elsewhere in the local area....and thanks to freely given inhouse maintenance from within the committee and the continuing low oil price, it is more than paying its way.

New works on the hall include the installation of an instant boiling water heater in the kitchen, generously funded in the main by a donation from the August Village Fete and a clock that actually works in the main hall. The old clock, which is of important historical value to the hall, but relies on a regular weekly wind up, will eventually be placed in a more suitable location in the hall once it has been cleaned and returned to good working order. To overcome the lack of lighting in the loos during summer months, small battery-powered LED lights have been installed which operate on a movement sensor. Outstanding still, amongst jobs on the wish list, is a wooden roller shutter for the kitchen hatchway and a storage hut for the Little Goslings should they still need one,

The only external issue to affect the hall was a water leak last summer in the tarmac on the north side of the hall. After negotiating with Wessex Water, they agreed to repair it free of charge as our one “free repair”. Although after considerable digging it turned out to be nothing to do with the Village Hall supply and we should still have our “free repair” in credit. Should there be any dispute, we have photographs of the event.

The annual hall clean-up on the 6th August was not as well attended by volunteers as previous years, but none the less we got the main hall thoroughly repainted, the stage re-varnished, windows cleaned and the kitchen floor scrubbed, with the Luncheon Club doing a thorough clean of the rest of the kitchen a few weeks later. Along with the usual paint jobs, on this year’s list is re-oiling the notice Board and cleaning out the gutter downpipes.

Overall all a very good past year for the Hall thanks to all the efforts of the Committee.