



*Church Minshull Village Hall
Muslip Road
Church Minshull CW5 6EW*

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY 2017

VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR 2016

2016 was a year of stabilisation and progression in the life of Church Minshull Village Hall in that our usage of the hall flourished with the additional modernisation of the Hall and the further growth of the Church Minshull Sports and Social Club.

With the financial help of the Church Minshull Parish Council, a new Notice Board has been purchased and Broadband has been installed together with the purchase of a laptop and printer. On a much larger scale, mostly due to the expertise of our trustee Rob Jones, we have undertaken an Environmental and Energy Saving Initiative. For this, Grants were applied for and awarded by Awards for All and Cheshire East County Council enabling us to go ahead with the project. This will allow us to replace the previous heating system of 9 elderly convection heaters plus 4 infra-red overhead heaters (for which we can no longer get replacement parts) with a compression system which will be far more efficient. The installation of just two compression cassettes for heating as well as a cooling system replaces the previous load of 35kw with just 20kw. In addition, the fluorescent lighting tubes will be replaced with LED based units. By being placed longitudinally in two rows down the length of the hall, the light level across the width of the hall will be vastly improved. These replacements are not only more environmentally friendly with the reduced amount of electricity used, but are also far more cost effective.

For the future, planning permission has also been agreed by Cheshire East Planning for a further extension to the front of the Hall.

The Sports and Social Club now includes Ballroom and Latin dancing (thanks to the excellent tuition of two of our villagers, Richard and Margaret Clueley), Let's play Bridge and Art for All. Bowls and Table tennis continued together with Yoga, Pilates, Carry on Singing and Moo Music. All these activities have meant that the hall has been in regular weekly use far more than in previous years. In addition, the WI continued to hold its monthly meetings, the drama group MAD used the hall for rehearsals in the run-up to their productions, the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Development Plan group, Village Farm committee have all made consistent use of the hall. It has been very noticeable that with these activities the Village Hall is now being used as it was originally intended as a hub for local village activity.

Over & above the regular usage, single event bookings have totalled 26 during 2016, slightly up on 2015, with timings from 2hrs to all day bookings including

birthday/christening parties, football training, dance classes, corporate bookings, Brexit election and a funeral.

With the ability now to offer bar facilities for events, individual groups have made use of Temporary Entertainment Notices as well as utilising the services of the Badger. Because of this there have been several additional bookings.

Two major fund raisers were held. One by the Social Club and the other by the WI, both of which earned welcome additional income for the hall. The 60/70's dance held in October was the brainchild of Sue Hugill who fully utilised the help of the Social Club committee to ensure a wonderful evening. The WI organised an ever-popular quiz evening, the proceeds of which were shared between the Hall and the Church. Our very grateful thanks go to both groups.

The hall has been maintained to its usual high standard, with the safety and enjoyment of the users always to the fore. Utilising fund raising monies, external lights have been acquired, a new boiler for the kitchen has been purchased and the door of the front shed has been replaced. In addition to the weekly cleaning programme, the gardener was employed to keep the exterior grounds tidy, trustee members and friends laid new shale to tidy some of the beds and a professional window cleaner was employed. Individual members of the committee continued to do extra maintenance work on a regular basis.

The accounts (submitted separately) show an excess of receipts over payments for the year of £. 2551.27 The accounts will be published on the Village Hall notice board and on the village website www.churchminshull.org.uk

As usual it must be remembered when considering the maintenance costs of the hall, that despite modern features being introduced over the years, it is basically a 1960's wooden hut which is liable to unexpected structural problems and therefore unexpected capital expenditure. During 2016 over £1,000 was again raised by fund raising activities which will be used to sustain the quality of provision for the future. With the costs of regular maintenance continually rising, this is becoming more and more difficult and we still have to address issues such as the upkeep of the car park – for which no organisation is prepared to award grants.

The committee continues to work with other local groups such as the Church, the Parish Council and the wider CM Vision group to encourage inclusive village participation and interest.

In conclusion, I must thank all trustees for their tireless work throughout the year. Without them the Village Hall would be a very different place!

Sandra Wallis (Chairman)

Presented to the AGM on May 16th 2017.