



*Church Minshull Village Hall
Muslin Row
Church Minshull CW5 6EW*

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY 2015

1. THE TRUSTEES

- a) The following Trustees were elected at the AGM on April 19th 2014: David Barrett, Pat Bowering, Chris Shaw, Jeanne Stockdale and Sandra Wallis
- b) The following were co-opted to the committee: Margaret Denton (WI rep) Sue Challoner, Alan Denton

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST AGM.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2013 AGM.

VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR 2014.

The Village Hall has continued to be used extensively to the benefit of the community although we are aware that the construction of the village hall at Worleston could well have an adverse effect on our bookings.

There were no major disruptions affecting bookings during 2014.

Regular Usage:

Bridge Clubs, Pilates & Yoga, Youth Club, Sing for Fun, Sing for Pleasure, & WI. Continued to use the hall. In January 2015 the Bridge club gave notice that they would be moving to Worleston which means a loss of 6 hours per week booking but Mandy Morris has resumed some of the classes that she cancelled last year. A new Martial Arts class was introduced one Saturday per month with plans for an additional regular weekly two hour session. There are now plans in the pipe-line to start new classes which we are hopeful will make up for funds lost through the loss of the bridge club.

The regular activities continue during a 5 day week (Mon-Fri) with a regular monthly booking for all day Saturday.

Single Events Bookings:

Over & above the regular usage, single event bookings have totalled 31 during 2014, slightly down on 2013, with timings from 3hrs to all day bookings including birthday/christening parties, Deloitte cycle ride, corporate bookings, meetings, CRT plays and CM Vision productions.

Early indications are for increased activity during 2015 for both regular & single event bookings.

4. MAINTENANCE

The hall has been maintained to its usual high standard, with the safety and enjoyment of the users always to the fore. Projects during the year have been of a relatively small but important nature – including moving the light switches to the side of the hall for easier access, emergency exit lights were extended. In addition to the weekly cleaning programme, for the first time a gardener was employed to keep the exterior grounds tidy (although some committee members did continue to do part of this work) and a professional window cleaner was employed.

5. MAJOR PROJECTS

As a result of two reports received by the Village Hall committee, a number of issues were identified which showed a possible risk to our users and which we felt needed to be addressed as quickly as possible.

As a direct result, the major efforts for the Village Hall Trustees for this year have been the raising of funds for the replacement of the lean-to structure which is a cause for concern as it has been reported to be unsafe because of some land slippage.

Applications were made for grants with resulting monies raised as follows:

Awards for All	£10,000
Cheshire East	£10,000
Church Minshull Parish Council	£2,000
The Foyle Foundation	£5,000
Village Hall Funds	£3,000

These funds have enabled us to commission the demolition of the back store, move the cleaner's cupboard to the ladies toilet, re-align the disabled access and to build a replacement store to the front of the building.

Further applications have been made to Garfield Weston and WREN to enable us to refurbish after the building work is complete. Funding raising will continue in the future to enable a rebuild of the back storage area.

Our other major project started during the year has been the examination together with a solicitor into the conveyance/constitution of the Village Hall to make it fit for purpose in the 21st century. This project is still at its early stages.

6. RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

The accounts (submitted separately) show an excess of receipts over payments for the year of £581.97. The accounts will be published on the Village Hall notice board and on the village website www.villagearena.org

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 2014 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 number of village hall committee members has reduced considerably over the past years and the burden of responsibility for the running of the hall has become more of a chore. During 2014 letters asking for further help were sent to regular users as well as articles to Insight magazine and the Arena website. We are always looking for extra help, even if it is not as a committee member but as a regular volunteer on whom we can call. If you feel that this is you – please let one of the committee know.

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.

Presented to the AGM on April 14th 2015.