

CHURCH MINSHULL VILLAGE HALL

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY 2016 (Abridged Version)

2015 was an unusual year in the life of the Village Hall in that we went from a rather disheartening beginning to an upbeat end of year.

At the AGM of 2015 we had a number of potential problems to address; in particular, the opening of the Village Hall at Worleston and the loss of our largest revenue income, the Bridge Club to the new hall.

To make the village aware of the problems and to take advice on the future, in February we held a Stakeholders meeting to ask the villagers themselves what they saw as the role of the village hall for the future and to discuss ways forward.

Bearing in mind that at this point we were partially through an undertaking to remove the unsafe back storeroom and build a replacement store to the front of the hall it was important to prove that after completion of the project, generating user income would still be possible to make the facility viable for the future.

If anything, these problems have given us new energy and enthusiasm in looking to the future. Having raised £32,000 for the storeroom, we then approached Sports for All for a grant for indoor bowls mats resulting in a flourishing group which has brought in many of the villagers. On Tuesday mornings until the end of March indoor bowls training was given while Friday evening has become a very successful and well attended social evening with the formation of the Church Minshull Sports and Social Club (which now has grown to include table tennis).

The Village Hall constitution that has constraining clauses, has been reviewed by a professional lawyer so that we are now able to offer bar facilities for events. As a result of this there have already been a number of additional bookings.

Pilates & Yoga, Ballet Pilates, Carry on Singing & WI. continued to use the hall. A new Martial Arts class was introduced one Saturday per month with an additional regular weekly two-hour session. The drama group MAD use the hall for rehearsal in the run-up to their productions. Two children's groups Moo Music and Baby Sensory were started although unfortunately Baby Sensory only lasted a few months. However, Moo Music have gone from strength to strength and also use the hall for special school holiday events.

Over & above the regular usage, single event bookings have totalled 25 during 2015, slightly down on 2014, with timings from 3hrs to all day bookings including

birthday/christening parties, corporate bookings, meetings, CRT plays and CM Vision productions and events, village farm and home farm park meetings.

Early indications are for increased activity during 2016 for both regular & single event bookings.

The hall has been maintained to its usual high standard, with the safety and enjoyment of the users always to the fore. The main Project of the year has obviously been the construction of the new build which generally ran smoothly. Emergency exit lights and alarms were extended to include the new store. In addition to the weekly cleaning programme, the gardener was employed to keep the exterior grounds tidy and removed some shrubs to give more parking space and a professional window cleaner was employed. Individual members of the committee continued to do extra maintenance work.

In January 2016 two new members, Sue Hugill and Rob Jones joined the committee bringing new ideas and great enthusiasm with them. 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.

Treasurer's Report

As you will see, the Receipts & Payments account for the year ended 31st January 2016 shows an excess of payments over receipts of £11,246.32 which at first glance may seem alarming!!! However, the total cost of the New Store is included within the payments whereas one grant of £10,000 from Awards for All towards this cost was received in the previous year.

The bank balance at the end of January 2016 was £8,617 broken down as follows:

Contingency:	£1,000
Capital Savings:	£4,000
Fund Raising:	£2,320
Operating Fund:	£1,297

Presented to the AGM May 17th 2016