

BRIANTSPUDDLE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT 2019

It seems unbelievable that it was a year ago we sat here for the last annual parish meeting and heard reports from the various organisations within the parish. But, then I started looking at the many things that have happened and quickly realised it would take at least a year to fit it all in and so here we are.

First of all it has been good to welcome Fiona Hogger onboard as a trustee, as the nominated representative of the PCC. The 10 trustees that make up our committee and Leslie, our tireless and invaluable minute secretary, incorporate virtually every aspect of our community which I see personally as not only how important the village hall is to our community but the inclusive desire from all corners to see it flourish and continue to meet the needs of our community.

It's been a very busy year with a range of activities taking place that some considerably larger communities would be in awe of being able to provide. I'll probably miss one or two for which I apologise but on a regular basis we have Pilates, yoga, short mat bowls, keep fit, skittles, Briantspuddle singers, coffee shop, let's lunch, evening talks/lectures, village hall lunch. A programme of arts reach performances, the Purbeck film festival, harvest lunch, the Christmas fair, Christmas lights celebration and awards and New Year's Eve party contribute to a full year.

We've also this year enjoyed the armistice day celebration tea party and exhibition, a wedding and various other private bookings.

Looking forward, I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage individuals and groups amongst us who would like to see other activities and events taking place to come and talk to us and let's see how together we can make even more things happen for our mutual benefit and enjoyment happen. The hall is very busy but there is scope to do even more if the desire for it is present.

The year has been just as busy behind the scenes keeping the hall not only in a good state of repair but seeking to improve and enhance facilities as we go. The re-ridging of the thatched roof was carried out successfully and the swifts played their part in vacating their annual holiday homes in an orderly manner at the agreed time allowing the work to be completed in what was a very hot sunny and dry summer.

We had the electricians in verifying and certifying the quality of the electrics throughout the building and also carrying out improvements to the fire alarm system moving from a battery operated wireless system to a fully integrated hard wired system, no more flat batteries triggering alarms. Not only that, but with a conscious effort to place unsightly wiring as inconspicuously as possible. It is our intention, as and when further re wiring or wiring is required to seek to gradually move everything to a less visible position further enhancing the beauty of our hall.

The establishing of a recorded ongoing maintenance schedule for the building and the annual clean further served to keep the facilities we enjoy as top notch as possible. Grateful thanks to trustees and other members of the community for rolling up their sleeves and helping out with the big annual clean.

We have also seen a large area of the main hall floor and the skittle alley replaced this year. A successful shared venture both in cost and organisation carried out by the Bladen social club and the village hall committee jointly. There is still some ongoing snagging being dealt with but overall a much enhanced and safer floor surface for all of us to enjoy.

We've also been able to purchase and install a new mixing desk and wireless microphone system to enhance everyone's enjoyment of the events that take place here with the loop system once again functioning correctly interacting with the P.A. system. There may still be a

need to move a speaker to further reduce the risk of occasional feedback. I hope in particular that those with reduced hearing ability are benefitting from these changes and trust you'll persevere with us as we fine tune the system.

We have a beautiful new sign outside the main doors to the hall drawing your attention to the entrance.

For a number of years now we have been served well by our substantial and quite heavy wooden tables due in no small part to some considerable fund raising carried out by Sue Jeanes in the past. The tables are becoming increasingly temperamental and prone to inflicting damage on their users without warning and are in need of replacement and so in the very near future, paid for by a considerable donation from the community group and the sale of jams and preserves in the coffee shop and with the balance being made up from hall funds, we will all be able to enjoy using a set of new, lightweight, hygienic tables.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Angie Talbot for all the hard work she put in as a trustee until recently when she stood down from her position as representative for the community group, not least of all in arranging for the Wareham men's shed to build a display cabinet positioned in the foyer and soon to display the Debenhams China and other artefacts, and welcome Cindy Read onboard as she takes over from Angie. Also a big thank you for the enormous amount of work Allan Smith does in keeping everything running smoothly, not only as treasurer but in so many other ways.

It has been a pleasure to work with each and every one of the trustees this past year and we are glad to report that once again we end the year with the village hall being in good shape both physically and financially but be assured we will not be resting on our laurels as the first weekend in June races towards us and with the help of the church and its flower festival weekend, kind villagers opening their gardens and many of you joining with us to make yet another open gardens event not only exhausting but thoroughly enjoyable as we come together as friends and neighbours working together for our community and this our village hall.