

Brookthorpe Village Hall Committee
AGM – Wednesday 3rd.April 2019

Secretary's Report

Bookings

The regular bookings from Eileen Browne's Yoga Classes, Crazy K9s, Jazz Friday, & The Cameo Group have all continued. In addition we have welcomed Gloucester Brass who now book the hall on Mondays & Wednesday Evenings. Periodic bookings have also been made by Ellis Crane Hire and Keys Child Care in Gilberts Lane as well as NTT Solutions, a Training Agency. During 2018 the hall was hired on 8 occasions for family parties. Some concern has been expressed from time to time over the fact that some hirers fail to leave the premises in a tidy condition, leave electricity on or taps running or fail to secure the building. Consequently the Conditions of Hire have been under discussion and recently reviewed.

The Parish Council of course uses the hall for its regular monthly meetings and often planning meetings – in addition a defibrillator training session was provided last September and attended by a number of parishioners. Its support both financial and in other ways is greatly appreciated.

Events

A number of events have been held again during the past year.

The Summer and Christmas Fayres continue to be regular dates in the calendar. As stated last year the purchase of the marquee and other items have made it possible to create extra covered space for events to take place whilst also utilising the open space in the grounds. A good crowd attended the Summer Fayre in June with attractions such as the Bouncy Castle, Archery in the Field behind the hall (by kind permission of Hugh Whittaker) and entertainment from the Gloucester Ukulele Experience.

Sadly inclement weather resulted in reduced numbers at Christmas plus the fact that the stormy conditions had damaged the marquee. Nevertheless Father Christmas was kept busy and a good array of stalls and decorations gave the place a good festive feel.

The Halloween Party was held again for the 4th.year running with great success with 27 children enjoying all the fun.

Entertainment wise the following were arranged:-

The Severn Wonders, a comedy sketch group, performed in June
Swingin at the Speakeasy, a Jazz Quintet (one of the acts promoted by Air In G) performed in late January. Those who attended felt this was one of the best shows to come to the Village Hall.

Finally, in commemoration of the centenary of the end of The First World War, a presentation was given at the beginning of December by Paul Gaze and Eric Hibbert depicting the contribution of local people to the war effort. This aroused great interest and was very well attended and thanks are due to Paul and Eric for the considerable research and planning which went into the organisation of the event.

Improvements, Repairs & Maintenance

A number of items have been purchased over the last year including:-

- Water Heaters
- Hand Dryers
- 2 Table Tennis Tables
- A Chest Freezer
- A Fridge Freezer

In addition much work is carried out of a maintenance nature – a large slice of this by Eric Hibbert and sometimes by Paul Gaze.

The committee itself has met periodically for “Tidy-up Days” generally to clear out unwanted items and to re-arrange storage areas.

Grounds

Thanks once again to Paul Gaze who has continued to keep the lawns and hedges clean & tidy. His efforts particularly in clearing dead wood and other debris have provided increased space in the grounds at the rear.

Cleaning

We are also grateful to Alison Phillips who has kept the inside of the Village Hall “spic & span” over the last year.

Extension

This project remains the main target for the immediate future. A number of preliminary discussions have taken place to move towards obtaining planning permission. I expect Eric Hibbert to expand on the detail towards the end of the meeting.

Committee

This year Heather Coles, who has been the Treasurer for the past 10 years has felt the need to step down from the role due to other heavy obligations elsewhere although she will remain on the committee. It can be a thankless task to be a Treasurer so we are extremely grateful for her commitment and efficiency in keeping the accounts in good shape. Annie Gaze has been acting as Treasurer for the last few weeks and we hope that she will take on the role following the Annual Meeting.

My thanks as always to committee members Amanda Hendry, Lynda King (Parish Council Appointee), Vicki Smart and Lisa Smith, all of whom have contributed fully to the cause over the past year and also to Lauren Amon, co-opted during the year. Finally can I pay tribute to our Chairman, Eric Hibbert, for his vision, commitment and enthusiastic leadership of the organisation.

Nigel Bone
Secretary
April 2019