

Brookthorpe Village Hall

Chairman's Report 2019/April 2020

More comprehensive details as to our work and achievements during the above period are excellently covered by Nigel Bone's report on this webpage. A good deal of time was spent during the year planning and achieving consent for our ambition to extend the Hall in order to improve our facilities and increase the potential numbers that we can cater for. Currently our maximum attendance is limited to 60 but with the eventual extension we should be able to increase that to 110/120.

Of course we now need to raise the funds required which is in the order of £180,000, unfortunately the COVID 19 pandemic has restricted our fundraising for now!

My thanks to the Parish Council for its continued support throughout the year, although the Council meets in the Hall it is not responsible for it but does have a permanent Councillor on the committee of Trustees. We have jointly funded a number of projects during the year.

The grounds of the Hall were meticulously maintained by Paul Gaze who takes great pride in ensuring the grounds are neat, tidy, attractive and safe. He also carries out some maintenance tasks and joins us at our meetings even though he is not a Trustee, although he too has now become a Parish Councillor again so there are two "representatives" with input at our regular meetings.

Our committee (all volunteers) now consists of 8 Trustees whom I would like to thank for their continued enthusiastic contribution throughout the year, but especially Nigel Bone, our secretary, who has for years taken care of all the mundane but sometimes exciting tasks that present themselves including minutes of meetings, attending off-site meetings, booking acts and dealing with both regular and occasional hirers. As well as this he also provides an information email service for the whole village, we are fortunate that he continues to fulfil these roles today.

Heather Coles recently retired as a Trustee, she served the Village Hall very well for many years but will still be around to help whenever there is a demand for help, so she hasn't escaped fully, thank you Heather!

Both inside and outside, the Village Hall is constantly changing and over the past few years it has been my personal ambition to make the Hall a destination, a focal point for all parishioners as well as those living in surrounding areas or even those just passing through. I have received many compliments regarding the grounds, memorial benches, war memorial and the even the way the grass is mowed. The latest addition is the Phone Box, this is being completely stripped and painted, with new glass, the defibrillator housed in it and even a small exchange library. Electricity is installed so the defibrillator panels will glow during the darkness of night so keep an eye open for the official launch in a month or so.

So if you are around and about the Hall at any time please keep an eye out for any unusual or suspicious behaviour and report it in order to protect and preserve this precious asset.

Thank you – *and Keep Safe!*

Eric Hibbert – Chairman of the Trustees