

BERRICK & ROKE VILLAGE HALL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2015/16

As Chair, I would first of all like to express my full appreciation for the support of my fellow Trustees and Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) members; all of whom have generously given up their time to ensure that the Village Hall is fit for purpose and has a viable long term future. I would like to immediately give a special thanks to Dymphna, who has managed bookings (and cleaners) for the last 5 years but sadly has said she would now like to step down. Would anybody from the parish who would be prepared to join the VHMC to replace her please contact me, or Dymphna personally of course. Also, my thanks to David Langston, who picked up the tricky baton of Health and Safety from Colin Hoad this year.

Next, I would like to mention the continuing excellent relationship we have with our primary tenant Wallingford Bridge Club (WBC). As many of you will know, the club paid several years rental in advance to cover the cost of the new roof, which, apart from stopping the leaks, has resulted in a more comfortable environment and considerable cost savings through lower energy usage. The club has also paid for improvements such as the carpet, remodelling of the rear rooms and the excellent LED lighting.

Beyond the bridge club, the hall continues to be a useful asset to our village, employed for a diverse range of activities such as pilates, children’s parties, weddings, cricket, cycling club pit stop, the Christmas Fete, the quiz, elections and, of course, parish meetings. The hall also proved its value last year as an emergency centre following the dreadful arson attack in Rokemarsh.

To ensure continuing future use of this amenity, the VHMC is now looking at possible next steps in terms of maintenance to keep the hall in good order, in particular replacement windows and repair of the ageing wall cladding. Ian Glyn, Jonathan Parkinson and Andy Pomeroy have formed a working group to explore the options.

As regards to our financial situation, my thanks to Jonathan Parkinson, who, despite a busy international business schedule, continues to keep our affairs in good order and meet all the administrative requirements of a registered charity. Jonathan tells us that, as of end of March, we had £9500 in the bank and our net outgoings (i.e. after receipt of non-bridge club hire fees) are under £1100 a year. These are mainly accounted for by safety inspections, insurances and ad hoc repairs. Running costs of the hall such as heating are largely met by the bridge club and have actually fallen since the roof was renovated. We have just over 2 years to run before hire fees from the bridge club resume and we are set to get through this period in good shape.

With the exception of Dymphna, all of the members of the VHMC have agreed to stand for re-election. Could I ask for proposers and seconders for these re-appointments.

Finally a vote of thanks to Ian Glyn for his continuing contribution on the VHMC as well as filling the very demanding Parish Chairman’s role over the last year.

John Bird