

Redmarley Village Hall

Treasurer's report to the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 31st October 2018

Let me start by welcoming you all to the 2018 Village Hall AGM. It's usual to begin by giving a brief account of how the Hall was used in the previous 12 months and I intend to follow the precedent.

Last year we had a total of 425 bookings, down slightly from 2017 when there were 430, however the use of the showers rose from 21 to 32 as Redmarley Football Club is now fielding a second team. The main users in 2017 were Tippy Toes Nursery and The Keep Fit Club which between them accounted for nearly a third of all bookings. It is therefore disappointing to report that both those organisations have now ceased operating and we will miss them

Offset against that we have a new Nursery in residence, Happy Turtles, who opened last month but it will take some time for them to become established and we cannot anticipate any income from that source until next year. The Hall also hosted a Wedding in June which was a great success and the committee is working to attract more such events.

Maintenance

Two large projects were completed last year, the first was the installation of a modern boiler to replace the original model. This was an expensive undertaking but thanks to Peter's securing various grants the cost was brought down to a manageable level. We must also thank Dennis Richardson who researched the various options and oversaw the actual installation.

The other, more visual improvement, was the separation of the Hall into two parts, this was achieved by locating doors in the corridors leading to the Ian Smith Room and means that even if the Ian Smith Room is in use by the Nursery the Main Hall can be hired out for other functions.

The doors were installed on a 'self-help' basis by the committee members and the cost savings were sufficient to enable us to purchase 80 new, upholstered chairs.

There were several other minor improvements, new crockery and glasses were purchased for the kitchen, new taps were fitted in the toilets and shelving erected in the bar storeroom. Operationally the Hall is in good shape to see us through the next 12 months.

Prospects for next year

Although we begin the year in a financially healthy state the prospects in the short term do not look good. We have lost our two major contributors and, although we are actively seeking more users, the booking in 2019 will fall.

It has been suggested that an Entertainments Committee be set up but, at present, we do not have sufficient numbers on the committee to do this. An EGM was called in March to highlight the need for more volunteers to serve on the committee and this did result in several people coming forward. However, even with the increase in numbers we still lack members who can donate sufficient time and energy to move ahead.

In fact, although the initial response was good I regret to report that we are almost back to where we were in March when things became critical. Once again I find myself appealing for volunteers to serve on the committee because, without support, the Village Hall will not be viable.

Richard Taylor
Chairman
31.10.2018