

North & South Wheatley Village Hall 2015/2016

Chairman's Report

May 17th 2016

I seem to start my report in the same way every year, but remains the same, yet another very busy year. We have had monthly full committee meetings, monthly subcommittee meetings of the Fundraising/social committee, and Maintenance subcommittee meet as required.

During this year Joy Peart resigned as Treasurer through ill health, we were sorry to lose her and wish her well. She had a difficult time putting the accounts in order initially and did a very good job. Unfortunately we so far have not found a replacement, but our very hard working secretary has taken on the job of acting treasurer. Rose is doing an excellent job as secretary at a time when her work load has increased enormously. She has worked very hard dealing with grant applications for the extensive improvements planned for the Hall. She also produces all the attractive posters and advertising in the Contact. We owe Rose a very big thank you for coping so well with the extra work as acting treasurer, secretary, and all the extras you have taken on, which includes your Memories Café, almost monthly, featuring interesting topics mainly from the past, thank you Rose. I suspect that Chris has helped behind the scenes, thank you Chris. I feel sure that as long as we have Rose we will also have Chris as a big supporter. Thank you to Geoff Ward for being Vice Chairman, and others who have stood in for me in the past difficult year.

This year we have welcomed 3 new committee members. Alan Ryder has been very busy throughout the year. He managed to persuade the licensing authority that we as a committee could hold a licence to serve alcohol, they said it was not possible, Alan proved them wrong and we now after a lot of work and determination, have a full licence. He is also in the process of updating the rules and regulations to include the changes required due to the new licence regs. Alan's most recent Idea has already been implemented very successfully, that is the Village Hall Newsletter, which we hope will go out to every household in the village every month. I believe we have already had good feedback. Thank you Alan, we need you to sign a ten year contract.

Charlotte Wright came in as Parish council Rep to replace Terry Kirk. It was very refreshing to have a younger person with fresh ideas and enthusiasm, Charlotte has fitted in well and been very supportive. Val Smelt has been a very recent member representing The Guide movement.

I feel that we now have and excellent hard working committee everyone playing a part and supporting where they can. We have strengths in all areas and whatever needs doing, there is usually a willing volunteer. We have back up support from non-committee people, Hillary in particular with catering, always 1st class, and Chris is always there when needed, which seems to be often these days. Thank

you both for all your help and support. We are also well supported by partners of committee members, and we thank all of them.

Kerry driver our booking clerk/caretaker has looked after the hall very well and also is able to book the hall herself as she continues to run her craft classes, who are responsible for many of our beautiful Christmas decorations, as well as organising our annual Waikiki beach party which was a huge success, Kerry can usually make things happen. Thank you Kerry

Progress with our building alterations is slow mainly due to the complicated grant applications. We have managed to make a few improvements and small additions to our facilities in the past year. We now have a cooker that is safe to use. Last year I was able to report that we had Audio visual system installed, we now have CCTV and broadband. We have also replaced all the crockery in the kitchen we now have enough for 100 people. We received a grant from Notts County Council to improve the lighting. We should if we have been successful in our bid for grant aid to Veolia next month and an application to Wren is due to go in in early June. There is no guarantee of success but Rose is working hard on both applications. We have had much needed letters of support from a number of people, but we need more.

The hall is regularly used by various organisations and groups in the village. And several exercise classes such as yoga and, Zumba. We also have a personal trainer regularly using the hall. Our biggest user was the school and they now have a hall of their own and so only use the v. hall for concerts. This now frees the hall for daytime users. This year we have had 2 elections and will have another in June which is a very good financial return for us. We have also had a number of private parties.

Fundraising has had a high priority again this year. We have had 4 visits from Village Ventures with their usual very high standard. We had a return visit from Well Versed, a quiz, all very successful. An afternoon tea was tried which proved popular thanks to excellent catering by Hilary and her support staff. Our annual Waikiki beach party and what is becoming our annual Tractor run organised excellently by Matthew & Josie Bennett, another big success. We had quarterly Table Top sale/coffee mornings, although poorly attended they make a useful profit, especially in December when we try to have a Christmas concert of some sort the same weekend. Last December it was a musical event featuring Christmas music through the ages. Wenda & John Tasker had a very successful festive coffee morning at Bargate in December and an outing to Wheatley Wood to learn about strawberry production was enjoyed by all who attended.

We had an outing to Chatsworth House to see the seasonal decorations and the Christmas Market. It was a very wet day but most enjoyed it. We all dressed up in December to form a nativity scene as part of the churches together Christmas

theme, the evidence is on the back wall, it was fun, but scary for a group of elderly angels balancing on chairs.

Letting fees were increased this year, the first time for 4 yrs. The increase was generally accepted once it was explained in a letter, received by all users about the vast increase in our over heads.

We have had a few small maintenance issues especially with heating which has still not been resolved. Some door handles and hold back hooks needed replacing but there has not been anything major, Mathew and Geoff can usually be relied on to deal with most problems. A paper towel dispenser was recently fitted in the kitchen. We are fortunate to have many local people checking our security etc. as they walk past, and informing us of any problems spotted, I know that Carol & Terry Kirk have been doing this for a long time and we are grateful for this.

Ones again I have to say that we do not get the support from the village that we deserve. Many of the productions that we have arranged are very well produced mostly by professional people to a very high standard. Once again Alan has come up with an idea to look into this problem. He has recently formed a very small group of people, call it a Focus group, and the intention is to look at ways of encouraging people to support the village hall.

We need to make people aware of what we do and what is on offer for their entertainment, and the professionalism of the productions. Already the Newsletter is being talked about and a survey is being planned. It is 4 yrs.' since the last one so perhaps an update is due. The Newsletter will inform of progress with grants and forthcoming attractions plus reviews of recent events. Thanks to Alan & Geoff for distributing this 1st one. More about that in the committee meeting.

Steve Rockcliffe, a local expert on Websites attended our April meeting at our request, as we were unhappy about our section on the village website. He suggested it would be good to have our own email address, he has investigated availability and several are being considered. He made several suggestions that could help us to circulate information quickly. I think he was very helpful, for more info on this subject, I suggest you ask someone who knows what they are talking about.

On a personal note, it has been a difficult year for me but I have had wonderful support from all of you. I have had to miss many meetings, but there has always been someone to cover for me, thank you all. Wheatley is a good place to live, and the village Hall committee has been good to be on, I may as well complete the 40 yrs. I am nearly there

Thank you,