

EYNESHAM VILLAGE HALL REPORT – 2018/2019

There have been two events over the past year that have had a significant effect on the Village Hall. The first of these was the very unfortunate news that Acre End Pre-school was going to have to close after occupying the Small Hall and adjacent facilities during term times since the Village Hall opened in 2001. A distinct lack of children was the main cause, forcing them to cease trading due to lack of funds.

They did however handle the closing down with considerable care and ensured they had no outstanding debts, and they even donated their refrigerator and microwave to the Village Hall for which we are extremely grateful. The loss of Pre-school is another blow for our income on top of losing a year so ago what had been a very useful income from the police for many years.

The second event was when our Booking Clerk, Rachel Cassar, announced in October that she and her husband Paul were leaving Eynsham to live in Suffolk. Paul had already been helping with the accounts and, as quite a lot of the work overlaps, we have now appointed Stephanie Norton as our joint Bookings and Accounts Clerk. She will also be picking up where Paul left off following his completion of the attached accounts for our financial year ending 31 July 2018. This will be carried out with the help of our new Treasurer, John Richards, who was elected to that post in January this year. He has taken over since Olaf Rock stood down in March last year after many years in that post. Our thanks go to Olaf for all his efforts over that time.

The accounts referred to above show that the income from bookings has still been holding up well and they show an overall profit of approximately £4,010 against a loss in the previous year of £5,580. However these give a slightly false picture because we are now spreading our insurance costs throughout the year so there is no lump sum insurance payment in the presented accounts, whereas in the previous year's accounts we had not only a lump sum insurance payment of more than £3,500 but also a major payment of more than £5,000 for the new cooker. The closure of Pre-school is more likely to affect our current financial year.

We organised another Community Day in the Village Hall in June after a two-year break which was quite well supported by various groups and organisations but not particularly well supported by the village at large – so we have decided to hold fire on any more for the time being.

For many years the Committee has had a wish-list of proposed improvements and top of the list has been a commercial dishwasher. I can report that this has very recently been installed and will hopefully be another item that might attract potential hirers.

We are also very pleased to welcome a new Gymnastics Club to the Village Hall which was launched on 17th March after their market research revealed a significant demand for it. We wish the organisers every success.

Finally, my thanks to all the Committee for their contributions towards the running of the Village Hall and especially to our new booking and accounts clerk Stephanie, our caretaker David Syphas and our voluntary secretary Eve Hollis.

ROY WILKINSON

Chair - Village Hall Management Committee

April 2019