

Hindolveston Village Hall Management Committee

(Registered Charity No. 298058)

Report from the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 18th October 2019

Chair's report

We've had another busy year with the Film Club, Coffee Shop and the Friday bar all thriving. As a committee and with help from others in the village we have put on several additional events:

Concerts from Magna Carta in February and Claude Bourbon in July arranged by Colin Wrighton. Both sold out. A Fundraising dinner in February organised in conjunction with Jill Davison for the church was a great success. Another successful orchard pruning workshop in February with eleven participants and all trees pruned under expert guidance. The 1940's evening in September organised by Mike and Alison Thomas wasn't as well attended as we'd hoped but was great fun and we still made a profit. Screening Mrs Miniver the night before added to the atmosphere. The second Pumpkin and Apple Day went well, despite poor weather again.

Although bar attendance and takings have been very variable they are always greatly improved when we have some sort of activity. The bar takings on the Christmas Festive Friday were the highest for the year and Quiz nights run by Derek and Sarah have proven very popular. We have fourteen volunteer bar tenders on a rota which has recently been taken over by Colin D'Oyley. Neil Gladwell has managed the stock and expanded the range of drinks on offer, working hard to find the best deals to ensure we make some profit despite the very reasonably priced drinks. Art in the Bar worked well for the first 12 months with different artists exhibiting each month.

The regular Working Party on the 1st Wednesday of each month plus an occasional weeding party in between have done some great work and we now have a crew of twenty volunteers who come along when time permits.

Over the past 12 months the work party has: tiled around the new sink in kitchen; repositioned the trophy cabinet; cleaned the windows inside; taken down and stored away the Christmas decorations; painted the gents and ladies toilet walls, plus the corridor; painted the entrance lobby walls; cleared the gutters; started painting the fascia boards outside and cleaning the old paint off the windowsills; fitted two new doors on the ladies loo cubicles and put up a new picture rail in the bar. Outdoors they have weeded round the edges of the building and car park (we have asked Norse not to weedkill any more) and cleared the bed between us and Headmaster's House which was full of bindweed; cleared the ivy from the fence and taken down the chain link fence on one side which was damaged; pressure washed the bench and the area outside the main doors; cleared windfalls and tidied the orchard area ready for Pumpkin & Apple Day.

Data Protection

Phil Brown very kindly offered to become the Village Hall Data Protection Officer and gave a presentation on how, as trustees of a charity, we are affected by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018.

Phil has created a data privacy statement which is now on the Parish website and he has worked with Sue Billings on a statement for the bookings forms. We have registered with the Information Commissioners Office.

Grants

Mary Beek and I have been working on new grant applications. We had a very informative meeting with Colin Venes from Thornham Village Hall regarding their fundraising efforts. We have reached stage 2 of the bid process with DEFRA, BIFFA and the Geoffrey Watling Trust.

Hall hire fees were raised by £1 an hour in the new year.

The 100 Club was launched in March and now has 48 members and a regular mid monthly draw at the Friday Bar.

A Tea towel has been commissioned from local designer Izzi Rainey and has been on sale for a couple of months.

Our secretary, Neil Lewis, resigned from the committee earlier in the year and we have not yet found a replacement. Jan Morrison stepped down from the committee this year and Wendy Coe joined. The committee has been working hard to run and improve the hall with a lot of work and support from many people in the village who are always willing to help keep the village hall going strong.

Julie Lovett

Treasurer's report

The financial year recently ended (01.09.18 – 31.08.19) has been one of steady income and expenditure, although with no significant progress on the plans for the extension to the Village Hall.

Unfortunately the Garfield Weston Foundation declined to support our project to extend and refurbish the hall. They had over 2,300 applications with requests totalling almost £200 million and, disappointingly, we were not one of the fortunate few to receive funding from them.

Further applications have been made to other organisations for a grant to extend and modernise the village hall buildings – Julie and Mary are working on three bids for funding for the extension: BIFFA, which could fund up to £75,000; the Geoffrey Watling Trust, offering 20% of project costs and DEFRA through ACRE for funding another 20%. - ongoing negotiations are in progress, but it was felt that last year's expenditure on plans and drawings was justified, as it was used again for these grant applications.

Successful events/gigs have included Magna Carta (Profit £240), Claude Bourbon (Profit £180), the 2 Pumpkin Days (Profits £172 & £150), Saturday Supper (Profit £790 – split with the church) and the Village Cinema has had a very successful year (Profit £1,096).

So, as income from the hall hire held steady over the year, and overall we are well in profit this year, and the re-opened bar profits have improved (but are still erratic).

Derek Chapman

4. Election of the Committee

The current committee, in attendance at the meeting, were re-elected. There were no additional nominees.