

Ashbury Village Hall Management Committee – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
Charity No. 292821

**Annual Report of the Chairman and Secretary April 2017/2018**

This report covers the period from 1st April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

**Committee:** During the year to April 2018 Maggie Simons was Chairman, Margaret Smith Secretary, Booking Secretaries, Lynn and Kevin Clarke and Roger Baker, Building Renovations Officer. Additional committee members were: Charles Ash, Julia Blake, Rev. Norma Fergusson (St Marys Church), Richard Fergusson (Parish Council Community Liaison), Eliza Lewis, Diane Lovegrove, Sue Reade (Community Club), Vic Tombs, Kate Watkins (Parish Council and Mother and Toddler Group), Nigel Jefferys (from January 2018)

**Treasurer:** Maggie Simons continued to carry out the treasurer role until January 2018 when Nigel Jefferys was able and willing to take on the role.

Since last year's annual meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> May committee meetings have been held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and today's annual meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> May. Margaret Smith, Secretary, has prepared and circulated minutes of meetings which have been signed by the Chairman after approval of the committee and filed in the Hall Minutes File kept by the Secretary. Electronic copies are also available.

**Events and Fund Raising Activities**

In July 2017 we held a Garage Sale and Table Top Sale with fourteen garages open plus tables in the village hall. "Are You Sitting Comfortably" in October 2017 was a ghost story presentation by Michael Garland. In January 2018 there was a Children's New Year Party run jointly with St Marys Church. Finally Roger and Jackie Baker ran a very successful Quiz night in April 2018.

The monthly water colour painting group continued to meet on Saturday mornings and an indoor bowls group started in September 2017 with fortnightly sessions on Wednesday evenings. In March 2018 the Vale of White Horse started a ten week Go Active Gold course in the hall on Thursday mornings. The British Red Cross ran a First Aid Session in February with a second one planned for the start of May 2018.

Between April 2017 and March 2018 there were regular meetings of the Mother and Toddler Group and several different keep fit classes including karate. The monthly Men's Breakfasts and Community Club meetings continued through the year. In addition the Parish Council and Hall committee have held regular meetings and the Hall continues to be frequently used for private parties, events, and Church functions.

**Community Arts and Crafts Classes**

We received a reduced grant from the Vale of the White Horse District Council of £200. This was used to subsidise the monthly Water Colour Painting sessions and the following one-off workshops - Autumn Flower Arranging, Christmas Cake Decorating, Christmas Wreaths and Mosaics. The workshops are popular and the grant keeps the cost at an affordable level. We have not been allocated a grant for the coming year.

**Maintenance Programme**

During the year small items of refurbishment were completed including the back door threshold and replacement of a floorboard near the serving hatch. There continue to be issues with the secondary glazing dampness especially in the front window.

During August the roof was overhauled, broken tiles and one lead valley were replaced and the entrance lobby roof completely renewed.

All Fire extinguishers were checked and one replaced as recommended in November 2017.

Roger Baker has continued to monitor loose rendering on the outside walls of the hall, the curved boundary wall and cracks in the School House wall, all of which are still giving concern.

A spec. has been drawn up to cover work needed to lift the existing floor, insulate below and replace with oak faced engineered boards. Quotes are being sought and then grants will be applied for.

Concern continues regarding the area of decking in the school playground against the rear wall of the hall.

### **Purchases**

During the year two stage lights were purchased as well as a second table trolley for the small tables. The WI banner that had been donated by Mrs Joyce Smith was framed and hung in the hall.

Vic Tombs provided two roses in large pots to stand against the external side wall.

### **Health and Safety issues**

There was concern about the uneven stones along the front entrance. A new impulse light was fitted above the door. The situation is still being monitored.

### **Cleaning**

Kevin Clarke continued to keep the grounds tidy and the outside windows cleaned. Lynn Clarke continued to clean the hall weekly. Both are paid for doing this work.

### **Registration of Village Hall Land**

During the year the Chairman continued to work with the solicitors, Winckworth Sherwood, to get the village hall land registered with the Land Registry. This was finally achieved and letters of comfort were exchanged between the School and the Village Hall regarding access.

### **Village Hall Web page**

During the year Diane McLaren has regularly maintained the Village Hall pages on the Ashbury Website with information provided by the committee.

### **Finance/Reserves**

We have an agreed minimum reserve of £5000 but during the year the balance has remained higher thanks to fund raising, grants and donations. The bank balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 was £7,360.08 and the value of our investment trust is £138,5483.66

### **Donations and Grants**

A donation of £300.50 was received from the Mrs Elizabeth Day's memorial service to support craft in Ashbury. This will be used to support as many craft events as possible.

Maggie Simons  
Chairman  
30<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Margaret Smith  
Secretary