

Ashbury Village Hall Management Committee – 23rd May 2016
Charity No. 292821

Annual Report of the Chairman and Secretary April 2015/2016

This report covers the period from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

Committee: During the year to April 2016 Maggie Simons was Chairman, Margaret Smith Secretary, Booking Secretaries, Lynn and Kevin Clarke and Roger Baker, Building Renovations Officer. Additional committee members were: Julia Blake, Maxine Curtis, Simon Edwards (resigned June 2015), Rev. Norma Fergusson, Freda Kemp (Senior Citizens), Laurence Le Gal, Eliza Lewis (PC spokesperson), Diana Lovegrove, Vic Tombs, Kate Watkins (Toddlers' spokesperson), Trudi Worner.

Action has been taken to try to find a treasurer during the year but this has not been successful and Maggie Simons has continued as acting treasurer.

Since last year's annual meeting on the 29th April committee meetings have been held on the 22nd June, 7th September, 2nd December 2015, 10th March and today's annual meeting on the 23rd May 2016. Margaret Smith, Secretary, has prepared and circulated minutes of all 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.

Hall reopening and Village Map unveiling 18th April 2015

The year started with the very successful reopening events after the major refurbishment and included unveiling of the Village Map. Among the Guests were local councillors, grant givers and many of those involved in creating the village map. About 200 people attended the three events over the weekend 18th and 19th April.

Events and Fund Raising Activities: Swindon Society Talk on Old Swindon in May; Sewing Groups visit to view the map in June; Old scholars afternoon in July; Garage/Table Top sale in July; Old Ashbury postcards and photographs slide show in November; A Christmas Social Evening in December 2015; Village Quiz in March 2016.

Regular Activities: Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were regular meetings of the toddler's group, band practices, pilates and keep fit classes and senior citizens. 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.

Unfortunately the ballet classes did not restart this year.

Community Arts and Crafts Classes, subsidised by a grant from the Vale of White Horse District Council, were run monthly from September 2015 to March 2016. These were taster sessions in water colour painting, papercraft, portrait photography, Christmas crafts, working with clay and flower arranging. The water colour painting class proved very popular and has become a monthly session for 12 with a waiting list.

Maintenance Program

During the year small items of refurbishment were completed including allowing the new floodlights to be switched separately, provision of a timer for the WC heating, and moving one radiator away from beneath the new textile map. There is still a

cracked pane of glass on the large school-facing window which Heaths is responsible for. From time to time there are issues with the secondary glazing dampness due to dampness in the walls. All Fire extinguishers were checked and replaced as recommended in May 2015. All portable electrical items were PAT tested in September 2015.

Roger Baker has continued to monitor loose rendering on the outside walls of the hall and cracks in the School House wall are still giving concern. The school has fixed fencing and decking against the hall wall in the playground and snow boards above the gutters all of which give concern that the hall walls will become damp and prevent proper inspection and maintenance of the walls in that area. These areas of concern will continue to be monitored.

Purchases During the year 100 new padded chairs and chair trolley, two folding display screens, vertical blinds to all hall windows, front door mat, kitchen items, Canvas prints of old village photographs, new Christmas decorations were all purchased. A new external noticeboard was ordered.

Health and Safety issues are regularly addressed, Eliza Lewis taking an on-line health and safety course. Food and safety assessment was completed in July 2015, and fire risk assessment carried out in December 2015. Both Norma Fergusson and Maggie Simons hold Level 2 Awards in Food Safety for catering. New emergency lighting outside the rear access was ordered.

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 committee agreed to work with the school to register the school and village hall land with the Land Registry using the same solicitors, Winckworth Sherwood. At the end of the year this was still ongoing.

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 for most of the year the balances have been much higher thanks to fund raising, grants and donations. The bank balance as 30th March 2016 was £9245.11 and the value of our investment trust is £115,925.65.

Donations and Grants: Donations were received from The Rose and Crown and Pete Townsend. Grants towards new chairs, new noticeboard and folding screens were received from the Vale District Council, Ashbury Parish Council and the William Cash Fund.

Maggie Simons
Chairman
23rd May 2016

Margaret Smith
Secretary