

Report on the Village Hall for May 2012 – April 2013

It hardly seems a year ago since I wrote my last report on the Village Hall and we are in the fortunate position that little has change. The Hall continues to be a popular venue for parties and weddings and is almost fully booked the whole year through. It seems being modern, clean and well maintained and just the sort of hall visitors feel happy to hire have earned its reputation.

We have been very fortunate to have had George Stump for another year as our chairman and Pat Hope as our Hon Secretary. They are well supported by the Managing Committee with Laura Peek as Vice-Chairman and Patrick Hurley as Treasurer. Other Trustees are Viv Desborough, Polly Harper, John Sink, Anne Toohar, Maxine Wolf and David Wordsworth. Jenny Desborough continues to be our Facilities Manager and Booking Secretary. Our thanks go to them all for their hard work.

The hall was very well used over the weekend of the Jubilee celebrations. It was a great coming together for residents and friends, despite the weather! The committee does a marvelous job in maintaining the hall to a very high standard. The slabs on the patio to the rear of the hall were becoming loose and dangerous. These have been re-laid and the bench, so kindly donated by the W.I., has been put in place. As the slabs to the front of the hall become slippery, they have been pressure washed. In an effort to avoid accidents a container has been purchased in which to keep sand and salt. Each month there are numerous jobs to see to, and the least pleasant of these, are the toilets that need attention!

The Swop Box, the 24/7 library, previously the telephone box, has proved extremely popular. The scheme was a finalist in the Huntingdon District Council award scheme, but a worthy contender pipped us to the post for first position.

Various activity groups and conferences continue to use the hall on a regular basis and the addition of the car park is proving a useful draw. With the guidance of our Treasurer the hall finances are in a healthy position. Less fortunate, however, is that the hairdresser, who came to the hall on a regular basis, has found it necessary to discontinue these visits, as it was proving financially unviable. Last year we had just two fund raising events, both were a quiz with a fish and chip supper. Being the well-read community which we are they were both well attended!

The Christmas trees and decorations bought real cheer to the hall during the Christmas period. We thank the members of the committee and the Flower Guild for their efforts. The gardens are well tended by the committee and the hanging baskets, in winter as well as summer, bring a real splash of colour.

After more than seven years I am standing down as a committee member, so this is my last report. Dennis Rait will take my place as the Parish Council representative. I'm sure Dennis will do a fine job and I hope he enjoys being a committee member as much as I have.
PM.