

News from the Biddenham Village Hall

We held our Annual General Meeting on a wet November evening, and despite the weather, we had a good attendance. At the meeting reviewed the past year and, in summary, I am pleased to be able to report that the Hall continues to be well utilised, well maintained and is on a sound financial footing. As a reminder, the Village Hall is run by 15 unpaid volunteers who either take on specific jobs, for example the Booking Officer, or represent a group of regular users, like the Gardening Society. This year we had a steady number of 15 Committee members, held six meetings when an average of 11 members attended. Our aim is to maintain the Village Hall to be a first-rate place for the use of Biddenham residents and the surrounding community. In addition to individuals doing their regular jobs to support the continuous smooth running of the Hall, we all carry out regular inspections and take part in an annual maintenance morning, when the volunteers blitz some of the routine maintenance jobs.

The Hall users are our customers and usage has continued to grow with much of the week now taken up with regular, long-standing bookings. If you are interested in booking please check availability on the Village Hall website. Income was up nearly 13% on the previous year, and we continue to keep sufficient funds in reserve to cover our planned works with a contingency for unforeseen events.

Every year we make repairs and improvements and in 2017 we replaced the floor in the entrance hall and the annex, fitted a new flat roof covering on the annex and fitted a new bike rack. As usual, there were a range of other smaller repairs and replacements necessary to keep the hall and its equipment in good working order.

Health and Safety is always on our agenda and I'm pleased to report that no accidents were reported this year. The programme of regular monthly inspections continued and all necessary repairs were completed. An independent review of our Fire Safety was undertaken and a number of recommendations have been made. These are currently being reviewed and any necessary actions will be undertaken in the next few months.

The Hall is in great condition and whilst we have no major works planned for the next 12 months, we will be looking to repoint the main external barn wall and renovate one of the fire doors. We will of course continue with the regular maintenance regime to keep everything in top condition. Our website is currently under review and some recent changes have led to intermittent issues creeping in, which we sort as soon as practical.

The annual quiz this year was a great success and a good night for all involved. It was decided that any net proceeds from the night would be donated to 'The Primrose Car Appeal' and in the end, the figure reached £830.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Hall users, Committee members and the people of the village for their support during the past twelve months.

Philip Inness
Chairman, Biddenham Village Hall Management Committee