

Chair's Report

First of all I want to start this year by recording thanks.

Because so many people in so many organisations do so much and it's very easy to get missed. So I think it's really important right at the beginning that we recognise the commitment from the trustees for the past year and thank them all.

Special recognition to Angela Tozer, who as booking secretary ensures the diary is maintained deals with the hirers.

Anne as secretary, who ensures we are kept in line with the Trustee meetings, and does a great job recording the minutes.

And finally Alan, who as Treasurer keeps the record of our accounts and manages many of the key expenditure costs such as energy and insurance.

Thank you all, I am as the chair well supported.

The Village hall trustees have 2 key roles 1 is to ensure the hall is well run and maintained and the other to provide funds in the future to replace the thatch when it is needed.

On a day to day basis the hall is kept clean and tidy by those who use it and a cleaner we employ. Once a year we carry out a deep clean when cupboards are turned out and cleaned, windows and ceilings get de cobwebbed. This usually takes place over the summer when bookings are fewer. Last year we were supported by a number of people who came along with rubber gloves to whom we give thanks.

We have a number of regular activities held in the hall. Pilates and yoga. Briantspuddle singers and a number of other choirs regularly using the hall to rehearse. But we've also had birthday parties and celebrations and it's always a sad privilege to host a wake particularly if its to remember someone who has lived as part of this community.

Arts REACH has once again brought some interesting live theatre to the village. I'd like to record thanks to Deborah Hepburn who co-ordinates with Artsreach. A visiting performers or small group of performers often require accommodation and feeding and we really appreciate Deborah's willingness to invite them into their home. We have our names down for a variety of performances in the coming year so watch this space and even if on a first glance it doesn't look like "your thing" give it a go -you may be surprised as many of us were when Elvis visited Briantspuddle earlier this year.

In respect of events the Village Hall Trustees run we had another successful Christmas Fayre in December. This is always well attended and we get lots of compliments from the stall holders who say it is one of their favourites.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel Burns night event. This has successfully run for a number of years but numbers have dropped over recent years and with increasing costs and fewer opportunities for sponsorship we had to take the tough decision to cancel.

as a Committee to only increase the kitchen fees rather than the hall because we didn't want that impact on our regular hirers that are small group hires and just use this one room. The reality is that the bulk of our increased costs are born in the kitchen, so that seems to have worked I think, Alan will tell us more details, but I think that that seems to have worked well. I think the recognition from my point of view is that we will probably need to look at doing more events if we want to protect those sorts of levels of fees. When we look at it, as we, as you've heard in the Minutes our two main hires we mentioned in there, the social club funds us to the tune of about £2,000 a year through their hiring. Some of the small hirings are probably around about the £500 a year. If we put on an event like the Nina Garcia event, we can turn a £500 profit on the night. So that can really help with the sustainability and mean that we can still afford to do really good prices. We've got to keep it under constant review and again Alan brings this up to date every time we meet as to where we're at and what we need to be thinking about.

I'm hoping that as we go forward, that we will see that we can encourage people and excite people to come on board, because although this report is about what has happened last year, it's also about where we want to go and to be honest, I'm more interested in where we want to go and how we want to get there and the vehicles that we use to do that. So I'm hopeful we've got one extra candidate offering to be elected as a trustee this year. So that's a good start, but hopefully you know we can co-opt people maybe to look into whatever grants might be available. Maybe we can get somebody to focus on some events. Because the important thing is we don't want to wear the trustees out by them running things all the time, the aim is really we run the hall and you guys use it. But I think as times move on with the way finances are, we're gonna have to step in and do that as well. But equally, we've got really exciting opportunities going forward. There are discussions going on at the moment about how all the organisations can work together. My usual beef. This is an ideal place where that can happen, because we have representatives and. We're still short from various areas of the community. It would be great if we could get a full complement from those committees that have not put people forward for the last few years. It's a great way that we actually all interact and so I really would encourage those organisations that are not representative to really see if you can find somebody. We now have our meetings bimonthly, unless there's a need for extra, so we're now actually talking about 6 meetings a year is the commitment? It's not every month so as I say, hopefully we can we can move with a a full complement at some point, but the other thing is as the discussions go on about what can happen and how we can all work together, there's real opportunities there where we can benefit one another. It's not going to be plain sailing. We're going to have to look at some of the issues we're gonna have to consider how each of us operate and how we can now operate differently. And there's need to be a willingness for us all to potentially take, I'll say, qualified risks because it's a bit of the unknown, but with a willingness not just from the organisations but from everybody sat here and the wider members of the parish we've got an opportunity to really grasp things and see where we go from this point on, as the demographic of our village and parish change, we need to change with it.