

The Village Hall Chairmans Report for the Period May 2017 until May 2018

The period May 17 to May 18 was again a very successful year with our regular and casual users taking advantage of a forever evolving facility, thank you to Elaine Smith our Diary Manager for filling any slots that should appear.

Our Bingo sessions throughout the year were well supported by regulars and many new faces, so my thanks to all involved especially the Co-oP who continue to provide a monthly Hamper as a raffle prize.

All our other regular functions during the period, ie Burns Night, "yes we did wear Kilts", Quiz Nights, The Morris Men and Clog Dancers, and the two new ventures, Film Nights and Open Mic Nights were well supported by all and sundry and I am grateful to all those volunteers who supported these functions.

In August the Hall had the privilege of hosting a gentleman called Don King who was evacuated to the Village during the 2nd world war, so with his family they came to visit during August 17, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Catherine Herbert, came and made presentation and a good time was had by all, my thanks to Maureen and Mike Palmer for all their hard work in putting the whole day together.

We were able to Host the 2017 Memorial Service and include the Villagers from Staplegrove as there Church was undergoing refurbishment, the weather was against us so the service was held in the Marshall Room which was full to capacity.

Christmas 2017 saw the installation of a 18ft Xmas tree which was sponsored by those regular users who were inclined to do so, my thanks to the team who erected, dressed and made the tree look fantastic, as stated by many passers by.

The rolling program of maintenance continued during this Period, work carried out was the installation of a CCTV system, sadly required to combat the ongoing anti-social behaviour occurring in the recreation grounds and around the Village Hall, after many conversations with the local police this was deemed to be the solution, so proven over time!

Other works include new floor coverings to the Reading Room, upgrading of the lighting at various locations and finally the replacement of the Marshall Room floor, my thanks to everyone who contributed to the funding of all the works, there are many other maintenance issues to be addressed, and many and various grant bids have been presented to organisations that have monies available, my thanks to Mary Hayward, the Halls secretary for her hard work in applying for these funds.

The Skittles Coffee Shop

What a resounding success, the Coffee Shop celebrated its first year on Easter Monday 2018 and has become the centre for all to meet, it is so gratifying to see people who wouldn't usually be able to drink and chat with friends and neighbours in the shop on a regular basis, and of course none of it would function without those volunteers who bake, work behind the counter, wash up and smile, all the above ably managed by Tricia Leonard, THANKYOU all.

Finally it goes without saying that without the vast amount of help and hard work from my Committee and the Friends of the Village Hall, the Village Hall would not have evolved as much as it has during this reporting period.

Don Wyatt
Chair NFW Village Hall and Friends of the Village Hall