

ASHENDON VILLAGE HALL REPORT 2018

It has been another good year for the hall with bookings continuing to be made on a regular basis. Our thanks to the W.I., the Church, the Parish Council and the Yoga Group who are our most regular hirers.

At the last AGM the committee agreed to make a change to our status. It was decided to apply to change from a Charitable Trust to a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The advantage of being a FCIO is that the trustees are not financially liable should any disaster befall the hall, a similar position to a director of a Limited Company. The disadvantages are that there is more admin for the Treasurer, not to mention a good deal of form filling before the change can be made. Also at the AGM our Chairman John Curtis stepped down and Jo Curtis retired after many years of sterling service. That leaves the committee Curtisless for the first time in almost 20 years.

As mentioned the hall continues to be used regularly and our rental income goes a good way towards our running costs but certainly does not cover everything and especially any capital costs. Projects at the moment include new furniture, especially chairs, and a new emergency exit door. Our treasurer is busily applying for grants to help with this. We have just raised our charges for the first time in 10 years to the not very dizzy height of £12.50 per session (not per hour but per session of up to 6 hours). From our research this is very much less expensive than most village halls. Our aim is to make sure that the hall is used by villagers as much as possible, but of course the shortfall has to be made up somehow and so we always run at least one fundraising event each year. This year we have a pudding evening to be held on 12th May. This is a new format for us and I am sure will be lots of fun. A light first course is to be followed by a trouser bursting choice of delicious puddings made by the good folk of Ashendon. Yum! Do please come if you can and help support our lovely little hall. Tickets available from myself or Kevin.

On behalf of the trustees of the hall may I thank all those who use and support the hall and especially this year those who organised and attended the progressive supper and made a very generous donation to our funds.

Richard Bates

Secretary