

Wreningham Village Hall 2016 Report to Annual Parish Meeting

The committee of trustees, the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) chaired by Michael Hill, is entrusted with delivering a functional asset for the use of villagers, their friends and family as well as for private and commercial hirers. A range of regular, and occasional ad hoc maintenance tasks are undertaken by the committee and volunteers. Recently, it was recognised that a more formal arrangement for ad hoc access to professional maintenance assistance would need to be established. The committee have therefore established a working arrangement with Mr Paul Askam in the village. Christine, our cleaner provides an excellent service ensuring that hirers are presented with the best possible conditions for their events.

Upgrading of the facilities progresses as and when funds are available. The project which delivered a new roof incorporating additional insulation has recently completed its final phase with the installation of air-conditioning units in the main hall. Its efficacy will be monitored by the committee. The first phase with air-conditioners for the Margaret Preston Room is operating well and has received good reports. In early 2015 the floor was reconditioned to improve the surface for dancers and hall users.

All of this is paid for by charges levied on hall hirers and users. All hirers are provided with details of charges and conditions for use.

We provide a venue for the local Polling Station; our Annual Art Exhibition; Ashren's Panto as well as a good number of private hirers (parties, weddings, receptions) and commercial bookings (exercise classes, sales events, exhibitions). Our car park is used by the school for parents doing the school run and occasionally by groups of walkers as a setting off point.

Our bookings diary (you can inspect this on-line at the village website) shows a varied set of regulars: Management Committee meetings; Social Club with a variety of events e.g. beer festival; family nights; etc.); Parish Council; Dumplin Country; Zumba (proving very popular); 60s Dance; Rock & Roll; Last Wednesday Coffee Morning; Flower Club; Wreningham school; Wreningham School Friends; Ashwren Players; Short Mat Bowls.

The committee's publication, The Mardle, is published every 2 months, to provide information to villagers about the village's organisations, events and issues. Christine Minns is the editor who, with Val Keel, receives and manages copy, whilst I produce the printable version for Christine to photocopy for her cohort of volunteers deliver to every household in the village.

The Social Club was set up many years ago as the "trading arm" of the VHMC, a necessity due to the then Charity legislation. Its management committee members are therefore agreed annually with the VHMC. The Social Club provides many of the village's social aspects held in the Hall, not least the bar facilities. Its wide range of social events are well publicised in their web-site.

Both the VHMC and the Social Club are currently in good financial standing and retaining a reasonable operating profit which is, as indicated above, used to improve and maintain the Hall as a facility for its users.

Michael Hill, May 2016