

RICKINGHALL VILLAGE HALL: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR YEAR 2013/14

Charity number: 1031063

SUMMARY

The Hall's finances continue to be sound, and the significant income from events organised by the Hall Committee enables us to maintain our very competitive hire charges. Events such as our monthly Farmers' Market, the Lottery, our annual Jumble Sale, Christmas Craft Fair, and Model Railway Show between them contribute nearly 40% of the Hall's income.

All of these events rely entirely on Committee members and other volunteers to run them, and on the much appreciated support of the members of the local community who attend them. Without either of these two parts we'd have to have much higher charges for hire of the Hall and, following on from this, many fewer activities in the village. So to everyone involved, thank you. Without you we wouldn't have much of a Hall.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

We have a small surplus of income over expenditure this year, while continuing to maintain our facilities to a high standard. The main spending this year has been for stripping and re-varnishing of the main Hall floor, and replacement of the old laminate floor in the north extension. We have also replaced the heaters throughout, purchased 25 extra chairs, improved the showers in the changing rooms, installed additional power points in the main Hall, and renewed the faded white lines in the car park. The skate park also now benefits from a metal bench, generously funded by our County Councillor Jessica Fleming from her Locality Budget.

USAGE OF HALL

This year's remarkable total of 497 bookings is the highest on record, and the fourth in a row to see an increase on the previous year. The Day Centre, RABBATS, Aerobics, Zumba, and Slimming World continue to be our core weekly hirers, accounting for over half of our total bookings. Our other regular hirers include the Heritage Circle, W.I. and the Further Education group, and there are many other events, from dances through both adult's and children's parties to wedding receptions, and even professional photographic sessions. Along with the monthly Farmers' Market and the other events organised by the Hall Committee, this does all mean that we continue to host an exceptional variety of activities for a relatively small village.

THE SPORTS AREA

This has again been very well used. For netball, we hosted the Summer League for a second year as well as the established Winter League. Wortham Tennis Club again used our facilities extensively during construction of an additional court at their home base, and the facility also continues to be used by some of the Gunners teams for winter soccer training.

THE PLAYING FIELD

Income here has been boosted by two groups running 'Boot Camp' fitness sessions during the year, as well as by a particularly large number of Gunners' teams using the pitches last football season.

THE SKATE PARK

This was again very popular with most age groups, although it does continue to be an expensive facility to maintain. The Hall of course funds this facility in full, and receives no income from it.

THE PLAY AREA

Again, this has continued to be very well used. It has not needed any substantial maintenance, but the safety surface is now starting to deteriorate in places, and is likely to need expensive repair or renewal in the next few years.

R.G. CLARK : November 2014