

RICKINGHALL VILLAGE HALL, YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 2016

(Registered Charity no. 1031063)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Summary

The past year has been the second busiest on record for the Hall, with an exceptional 524 bookings. These again were for a surprisingly wide range of uses, with the Hall continuing to be a primary social centre for the village as well as the hub for community activities – and all run by volunteers. The fact that more than 40% of the Hall's income now comes from events organised and run by the Hall Management Committee itself, often with extra volunteer staffing help from others, enables us to maintain our hire charges at extremely competitive levels. Without the generous gifts of time and support from the Village Hall team, and of course those who attend our events or support our monthly Lottery, we would not be able to offer the facilities which we have at such competitive prices.

Income and Expenditure

Income generated was up by nearly 10%, mainly as a result of increased revenues from events organised by the Hall itself. We did, though, have a lot of expenditure. Lighting improvements in the main hall, and replacement of the door opening onto the playing field, were in the main funded by local grants. Other significant amounts spent were for a repaint of the main hall, widening of the paved terrace facing the field, an unplanned replacement of a failed water heater, a Dyson hand dryer for the ladies' toilet, and for a specialist armoured box to hold the defibrillator being installed outside the main entrance.

Overall finances do continue to be on a sound footing, with adequate funds held to cover both ongoing expenses and any likely surprises.

Events at the Hall

Our most frequent hirers are the Day Centre, Rabbats, Aerobics, Zumba, Positive Steps, Fit Steps, and Slimming World. There are also further education classes, dances, parties, various committee meetings, and lots of other less regular events ranging from jumble sales to elections. This is all in addition to those events organised by the Hall itself – the monthly Farmers' Market, the Christmas Craft Fair, February's Grand Jumble Sale, the May Model Railway Show and, of course, the annual Fireworks Party. A busy calendar, and thus the 524 bookings during the year.

Outside facilities

The Hall continues to fund and maintain the children's play area and the skate park, neither of which of course produce any income but are important village facilities. In the fenced and floodlit games area, meanwhile, we continue to host both winter and summer netball league matches, as well as soccer training for the youngsters. Along with the sports field, a good set of community facilities for a relatively small village.

Bob Clark, Chairman, Hall Management Committee
November 2016