

RICKINGHALL VILLAGE HALL, YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 2017
(Registered Charity no. 1031063)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Summary

This year has seen another record number of bookings for use of the Hall. There were a remarkable 576 hires, the third consecutive year where bookings have been above 500. Ten years ago there were 374 hires, so the decade has seen a 50% increase.

The largest number of individual hires this year was for Zumba classes, now held three times each week, and these along with numerous other health and fitness sessions account for around half of all hirings. These are of course supplemented by a wide range of other uses, for social and other activities involving all ages, from the RaBBaTs mother and toddler group, through dances and parties, to the weekly Day Centre for some of our more elderly residents.

The Hall thus continues to be a primary social centre for the village, as well as the hub for community activities – and all run by volunteers. This year again more than 40% of the Hall's revenue came from events organised and run by the Hall Management Committee itself, often with extra volunteer staffing help from others. This income allows us to maintain our hire charges at very competitive levels, and it continues to be the case that without the generous gifts of time and support from the Village Hall team, and of course from those who support our events or our monthly Lottery, we would not be able to offer the good facilities which we have at such competitive prices.

Income and Expenditure

Income from hirings has increased by a relatively modest 3%, since many of the additional hires this year are for health and fitness groups and thus each of only one hour's duration. Our year-end accounts do, however, show an additional £11,000 income this year, this being grant money already received towards the cost of our main toilets renewal project, which is to be carried out early in the New Year.

Expenditure this year has been relatively modest, again in anticipation of the toilets renewal project, although we have replaced a number of rotten windows with uPVC, again with grant assistance.

Excluding reserved funds, ie the grants which we have to hand, we did end the year with a surplus in excess of £2,000, so our finances continue to be on a sound footing, with adequate funds held to cover ongoing expenses and a reserve for any unplanned needs.

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, and this year regular adults' and children's tennis coaching sessions have been established in addition. With under 15's soccer training and competitive matches on the playing field as well, we do host a good choice of outdoor activities as well as those in the Hall itself.

We are now looking forward to the upcoming installation of our new Ladies & Gents toilet facilities in the New Year. Watch this space!

Bob Clark, Chairman, Hall Management Committee
November 2017