

Preston Village Hall Annual Chairman's Report 31st March 2020

The Committee this year consisted of Therese Munro Warwick - Chair (April to June) Chris Sutton - (Chair July to present time), Ioan Jones – Treasurer, Anne Mingins - Booking Secretary

Alexander Lindsay, Rosie Jones, Barbara King, Sue Gulliford (from October to present)

There were meetings in June, October and January with informal meetings and communications between.

Events April 2019 to March 2020

In May we started to hold Coffee Morning and book swap, on the first Friday of the month, 10.30 am to 12.00 pm which is proving very popular.

The Quiz night on 22nd November with Quiz Master Cathy Lynn was again very successful, as was the annual Mulled Wine and Mince Pies on 20th December.

Karen Thornton, and her loyal group of helpers, once more treated us to very welcome Soup Saturdays, although unfortunately the last one of the winter, on 21st March had to be cancelled because of Coronavirus.

Hall Maintenance and Improvement

The committee have continued to maintain and improve the hall. The cleaning continues to be done by a cleaning company Helpful Hands, on a Friday morning, just after the coffee morning, at a cost of £35 a month.

The Wi-Fi contract has been renewed by the Parish Council, with the village hall sharing the cost of £18 a month.

The leak in lady's toilet was investigated and the gutters cleared out. The leak is however still intermittent.

Since the damp smell in the kitchen cupboards was improved by taking off the cupboard doors to allow the air to circulate, we decided to leave them off and Therese Munro Warwick very kindly made some excellent curtains instead.

As the yoga and Art groups find the hall rather chilly, they have been using extra heaters, which have unfortunately been tripping the fuse switch. In order to find the most efficient way of improving the heating and also to provide more sympathetic lighting, we are currently taking advice from local electrical firms and hope to come up with a plan of action in the near future.

Village Hall Use

Regular uses this year have been the Art Classes have on Mondays and Thursdays and 2 yoga classes on Wednesdays, which make large contribution to the income of the hall. The 2 elections this year were also a bonus.

The Coffee morning each month, Soup Saturdays during the winter, Handbell ringers, Preston and Siddington W.I., a Creative group and private hirings for family and children's parties. The Parish Council also meets here 6 times a year.

Communications

We must thank Dot Warren for her help in circulating information about village hall events via email.

Overall. The hall continues to be well used and be a central point for village activity. With its current use, it is financially stable, though we recognize that at some point redecoration will be needed which will be expensive. **Note** that the Financial Report runs from January 1st to December 31st 2019, although this report is from April 2019 to March 2020.

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