

Brookthorpe Village Hall

Chairman's Report 2021/2022

Comprehensive reports from Both Nigel and other committee members will cover numerous events and other matters concerning this past 12 months. Again It was hoped that we would be back to an active period from June onwards but that was not to be, with many of our regulars not returning to the Hall and new bookings few and far between. When we looked around this appeared to be the norm and still is at this point in 2022. There is clearly still a reluctance to venture out and attend group gatherings in particular.

You will not have missed the appearance in the car park of the Sales Office for Cotswold Homes who are building 19 homes along Wynstones Drive here in Brookthorpe. We have negotiated a rental agreement for use of a small part of our car park for a period of 6 to 9 months, bringing in some regular income which is welcome during this quiet period for us.

As Always my sincere thanks to all the Trustees who have regularly attended both Zoom and face to face meetings over the past year and waited patiently for our RETURN! We did however manage to put on several events in and around the Hall for the enjoyment of parishioners and passers by.

Again the Grounds of the Hall continue to be meticulously maintained by Paul Gaze, who takes great pride in our visual appearance, he is also involved in the maintenance of the Hall. Although not a Trustee, Paul attends all of the Village Hall meetings and does so as the representative for the Parish Council. **So thank you as always Paul.**

We are as you are no doubt aware Trustees of the Hall's Charitable Trust, there are currently seven of us but there is always room for one or two more. Sadly, but not unexpectedly, Nigel Bone (our secretary) is stepping down from the committee as previously mentioned in last years report and in his own report for this meeting. A new secretary will be appointed should the current committee, less Nigel of course, be appointed to run the Hall for the next 12 months i.e. 2022/2023. That would mean we have only 6 members so if anyone is interested in joining us please let us know.

Nigel has been a resourceful and proactive member the Trust for many years, in fact since 2009 and has played a crucial role in our well-being, providing the booking contact, liaising with numerous organisations and authorities and promoting evening events as well as taking and producing the minutes. His wife, Margaret, has also been proactive over the years as a helper whenever called upon. They will both be missed but I know they will continue still to take an interest in our future. **Thank you Nigel and Margaret, from all the Trustees, its been a pleasure working with you.**

The Newsletter continues to be produced, 6 times a year and the latest one is due out in the next week or so. Contributions are always welcome. hibberteric@gmail.com

Our New Website was launched in 2021 as promised www.bvhtrust.uk so keep an eye out for all the latest information from us including the past and latest Newsletters! There is a direct link from there to the official Parish Council Website so both Village Hall and Parish Council information is available to all! No excuses therefore, for not being up to date with what's happening in the Parish.

The Parish Council is of course a separate entity to the Village Hall Committee but it

continues to sponsor events held at the hall as well as help fund occasional improvements to the hall, which is always very much appreciated.

Although we have at our discretion permission to extend the hall, the effects of covid on peoples habits over the past two years has led us to consider re-thinking whether or not we proceed with that plan or alternatively revise our ambitions. The purpose of extending was to generate facilities for larger attendances for indoor events. As has already been stated use of the hall has diminished and the number of attendees reduced dramatically. However there is a less expensive option available to increase the internal capacity of the hall, so we are currently investigating this alternative option which would entail a much lower cost. We will keep you informed!

So Finally I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the Hall and events in the past and plead with those who have not supported in the past to make an effort to support us in the future. We are a Charitable Trust totally reliant normally on hirings and event support to remain a viable entity. Our profits are small but we exist to provide a service to the community around us. The trustees give of their time and expertise for free and go to great lengths to make things happen in and around this Village owned historical asset, **one we should all be proud of and make a special effort to support.**

Thank you everyone!

Eric Hibbert – chairman of the trustees (2015 - 2022)

23rd April 2022