

## Washington Memorial Hall Charity Chairman's Report 2017/2018

Thank you all for coming and supporting the Hall's 2018 AGM.

This is my last Chairman's report as I am not standing for re- election to the Board of Trustees in accordance with the notice I gave in March last year.

I am going to start by saying Thank You. Thank You to all trustees and volunteers who have over the past year and further back into history, worked so hard for the benefit of the Hall and our community.

Rob Gerig has devoted himself these past 5 years to the improvement of just about every aspect of the maintenance, management and financial viability of the Hall. He has seen to it that we are up to date with the ever increasing number of rules and regulations of which we must have note, has instigated the improvements to the fabric of the Hall and organised it's hiring, both regular and "one off". Rob has resigned as a trustee but has ensured the result of all his hard work is on disc for the benefit of his successors. Rob is going to be a very hard act to follow.

We are also going to miss the services of Pauline Stephenson, a loyal and long standing servant of the Hall. Pauline please accept this expression of thanks and best wishes for the future.

Efficient and knowledgable, Pat o'Shea is the secretary and upon whom we all rely. Pat has been and hopefully will continue to be not just the secretary but also a regular user of the Hall. Thank you for your calm efficiency and your help with catering at events. I am going to miss everything chocolate you bring to meetings! Very many thanks to Lorna Goldsmith who has organised events, the catering and also the 100 club. She is also the longest serving Trustee. Lorna has always been willingly and efficiently supported at events by Irene Thomson and big thanks to Freya Carter who has taken over responsibility for compliance.

Thanks too are due to Bryon Winslade for his care of the fabric of the Hall and to Suzanne Muddle who cleans it all so conscientiously.

Throughout the year Rob and Bryon have continued to ensure the upkeep and modernisation of the hall. New windows have been installed in the Dore Room and original part of the Hall and the drainage outside appears to have done it's job. We now have an agreement with contractors for the continued inspection and maintenance of the roof.

Because of the work put in over the years by Trustees, volunteers and employees the Hall has become one of the most attractive in the area.

The main issue facing the Hall and the Trustees ability to continue to fulfil it's charitable objects continues, as ever, to be the lack of help. New volunteers and Trustees are urgently needed. At the beginning of 2018 a letter was sent to (almost) every house in the village explaining that without new volunteers the future of the Hall was in jeopardy and calling a public meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February when a full and detailed exposition of the seriousness of the situation would be given. Approx. 850 letters were delivered, 7 people turned up and 5 people agreed to take on specific tasks as volunteers.

A big welcome and a big thank you to Sue Goss, Sue Hale, Jenny Dearman and Bryon Winslade as new volunteers. (More detail as to how the 5 became 4 is really a matter for next year's chairman's report )

Finally please may I thank you all, present and past Trustees and volunteers, for everything you have done for the Hall, for the Village and for the wider community. May your enthusiasm, persistence and willingness to go the extra mile be rewarded with more help in the future. The continued existence of the Hall means a very great deal .

I will miss you all.

Nigel Baker  
Chairman