

## Washington Village Memorial Hall

### Chairman's Report for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

We began the year by welcoming two new Trustees: Roger Ball who had agreed to take on the role of Treasurer and Tracey Slaughter to share responsibility for one-off bookings with Sue Stuart Scott.

Rob Gerig had previously made the decision to reduce his involvement in the hall, but following the resignation of Sue Hale had kindly offered to look after the regular bookings until a replacement could be found. We were fortunate in finding Sarah Buddell who took over the regular bookings in October.

Sadly for us, in the autumn Roger Ball had to resign as Treasurer as he was moving away from the area, but we were again fortunate that Steve Buddell stepped in as Treasurer from December.

We have had a number of challenges through the year. The Chanctonbury Room roof still leaks from time to time and we have a regular maintenance agreement in place.

We also had a problem with the Chanctonbury Room floor which was lifting in a couple of places. After phone calls and inspection meetings this was found to be due to leaking water pipes under the floor. The solution was to re-route the pipes around the exterior of the hall and lift and relay the affected parts of the floor. Our thanks are due to Roger Ball, Rob Gerig and Bryon Winslade for their persistence and hard work in getting this problem solved.

During the year we have replaced the old heaters in the Dore Room kitchen with two new electric heaters and also bought a new cooker for the Dore Room kitchen.

In terms of future projects we have a number of works in mind:

As the step at the front door of the Dore is too high for some users to manage we have obtained agreement from the Parish Council to build a half step to make access easier.

The outside handrail at the back of the Chanctonbury Room is due to be replaced.

A redecoration programme for the hall is to be drawn up and quotes obtained.

The remaining fluorescent tubes will be changed to more environmentally acceptable lighting.

Throughout the year we have had a high number of regular and one-off bookings so the hall is very well used. It is noted, however that a large number of these bookings are from people living outside the area and we would like to encourage more local people to make use of their village hall.

The 100 Club continues to provide additional funds for the hall. Numbers are around 80 so we need to encourage more people to join. In December we held the usual Christmas Party;

although attendance was lower than usual the evening was much enjoyed by those who came.

In the autumn we heard the very sad news that one of our former Trustees, Neil Manser, had died. Neil was an inspiration to all of us who knew him and a loyal supporter of the hall. We will greatly miss his amazing sense of fun and our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Finally my thanks to everyone who helps to keep our lovely hall running – the trustees, volunteers, our two employees Suzanne Muddle and Bryon Winslade, and, of course, the users of the hall without whom there would be no point.

We end the year going into lockdown so we will have to see what the next year brings.