

Old Village Hall Annual General Meeting

April 2012

Good evening to you all, and welcome to Old Village Hall Annual General Meeting. I am pleased to give you my report on what has been the first full financial year in the new village hall in Old.

When we opened the village hall we had little in our financial coffers but this was more than made up for by the enthusiasm of villagers and others using the hall for a variety of purposes. The regular users have provided the bedrock of the hall's economic sustainability and we appreciate their support. It is important that we maintain good communications with these groups and address any issues they may have. The hall is now booked for club and sports activities between one and three times each weekday. New comers include Zumba, Keep Fit and U3A Badminton. We try to preserve weekends for occasional bookings which have included children's birthday parties, celebrations for grown-ups, village events, a wedding reception and so on. These all provide a steady income for the hall. We also need to set aside contingency for redecoration and maintenance, and to this end, the Trustees continue to hold 3 or 4 fundraising events per annum. These include the ever popular Wine Tasting and Supper, Bonfire and Fire Works and the Christmas Dance. We continue to book theatrical plays through Northants Touring Arts which are always well attended and of an excellent standard. We now show films on a regular basis and have established a film club with 50 members. The theatre and films both benefit from the use of the hall's special facilities.

Building work on the hall was completed on the hall by Christmas 2011 when our contractors, Steele and Bray Ltd., finished the outstanding snagging items, which were very few, and the final retention fee was paid to them. We still have to re-instate the Arena equipment and we are working with the Parish Council and OPC Trustees to identify the best site for this. We are disappointed in the quality of the extension car park as the grass has failed to become established in some areas. We shall continue to try to improve this situation. However, car parking in general has become less problematical and I hope all hall users will continue to heed the agreed booking terms and not leave their cars in Charles Close.

We are also aware that we have not established any services in the hall for the younger generation, which is not to discount the huge contribution made by Old CC and the excellent junior coaching and team, which is the envy of many. We would like to be able to offer some coaching in either badminton or table tennis – or indeed both and are hoping to work with Sport England to achieve this in the coming year.

I have to report that we successfully applied to Biffaward through their small grant scheme and were awarded £4,800 towards 120 new chairs, a storage rack and table trolley. We have since placed the order and expect delivery of these items next month. We have also been able to replace the old rectangular tables with 10 light weight tressel tables. The old tables have been stored for future use elsewhere as required. The hall now offers facilities for 120 people, including chairs, tables, cutlery and crockery.

Katie Lindenbaum

Chairperson Old Village Hall Charity Trustees