



PAXCROFT MEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE.
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2007 TO MARCH 2008.

We have been fortunate this year in having more members on the Management Committee than has been the case in the recent past, and all posts within the Committee have been filled. Our ability to carry out maintenance work was increased when Alan Jales agreed to be co-opted, and increased further with Paddy Reeves' involvement. We had to survive two major problems: one when Jack Pope retired suddenly from the Treasurer's post he had held for several years because of his intention to return to the USA; and one because our cleaner, Emma King, had a long absence due to illness. The first of these was solved when Paul Mansfield agreed to be co-opted, and the second was managed by a combination of agency cleaner and voluntary work by Pauline Marples. Sadly for us, Emma has recently found a new full time job and will shortly be leaving us. She leaves with our thanks for everything she has done for the Centre over the past 6 years and with our best wishes for the future.

Immediately following the election of the new Committee in May 2007, we set ourselves two objectives in addition to the maintaining and general running of the Centre. The first of these was to sort out the boundary problem, and lead on to registering the Centre with the Charity Commission. We have not made much progress with the boundary issue, though the new owners of Hackett Place seem to be taking a constructive approach to the matter. However, it transpired that we could proceed with the registration despite the boundary problem, and we submitted an application in March. The second objective was to carry out a "Health Check". This is a process recommended by ACRE - Action With Communities in Rural England - which lets us ensure that we are meeting all the legal requirements placed on an organisation such as ours. There are seven sections to the check, dealing with different areas of legal requirements. We have worked through all seven, identified necessary actions, and carried out many of them. Most have been procedural matters, but some practical work has also been necessary.

In the area of normal maintaining and running the Centre we have done the following:-

- Developed closer ties and improved channels of communication with the Mead Club.
- Finished the refurbishment of the small meeting room started by the previous Committee
- Replaced the fire alarm panel, and diagnosed and cured the fault in the system that had caused irritating warning signals.
- Carried out portable appliance tests on all the electrical equipment.
- Had the wiring of the building checked
- Attended to the long standing lighting problem in the main hall
- Reviewed and increased our insurance cover.
- Continued to develop our web site, and raise the profile of the Centre e.g. via the newsletter.
- Improved our health and safety policy, and created a health and safety file.
- Agreed to the Neighbourhood Policing Team using our small meeting room for drop-in surgeries, and begun to work with them on local issues.
- Reintroduced a building book to register practical work needed, and done numerous simple maintenance tasks ourselves.
- Finished repaying the loan from Hilperton Parish Council.
- Generally tidied up.

In the next twelve months, we need to continue our efforts to resolve the boundary issue, achieve registration with the Charity Commission, and complete actions identified by the Health Check. The effort required on these should be much less than has been the case over the last year, and we need to turn our attention to improving the Centre itself, to make it a more cheerful and attractive place for people to use. The outside woodwork is badly in need of attention, and we need to start redecorating some of the rooms inside. Detail plans will be the responsibility of the new Committee elected at our AGM in May.

F.J. Marples. 5th April 2008