



PAXCROFT MEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE.
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2008/MARCH 2009

1. Once again we have been fortunate in having a full Management Committee, with ten elected members (the maximum allowed by our Deed of Trust) and two appointed members. Part way through the year, we formed a Maintenance Task Group, with responsibility for identifying, planning, and carrying out, maintenance work on the building. A new cleaner, Alison, started working for us in May. She has settled in very well and we are pleased with her work.
2. During the year we have lost the regular booking from Le Club Français, but the Trowbridge Archaeology Group has firmed up on its booking, a new dance class has started, and we have recently had inquiries from people considering running various other groups. We have continued to develop our web page, and have extended the circulation list of our news letter. Also, we have changed our bank from Lloyds to CAF in order to get a better interest rate.
3. The boundary problem has still not been resolved. This is an issue between the owners of the rest of Hackett Place and Hilperton Parish Council, with the owners saying they are willing to settle the matter provided it is at no cost to them. However, despite this, our application for the Centre to become a registered charity was successful, and on 3rd of April 2008 it became registered charity number 1123423. This fact now has to be stated on all our financial paperwork. We considered joining the Wiltshire Village Hall Association Hallmark scheme, but that seemed more suitable for established charities than for new ones, and we decided not to proceed at that time.
4. Being a registered charity has provided some financial benefit to the Centre. We now have a larger discount on rates, pay reduced VAT on fuel, and pay less for rubbish collection. Also, we have reviewed all our contracts and achieved further savings there. Against that, we have at last managed to obtain a gas account with Southern Electric. After telling us repeatedly that they didn't supply us, they eventually decided that they had been supplying us all along. Thankfully, they confirmed that they will not be charging us for past usage, but we are now paying for what we use. This new bill is expected to be around £3200 a year, and will use up much, but probably not all, of the achieved savings, and we have decided that there is no need to increase our charges to hirers this year.
5. We have continued to work with the Social Club for our mutual benefit, with its Chairman being an appointed member of the Management Committee, and with me attending their meetings. At their AGM, they voted to increase their payment to us, and we are pleased with their continued support. The Parish Council has also helped with generous donations. They have bought a monitor for our newly installed CCTV cameras, and have paid for the replacement of the guttering and down pipes we needed. We thank them for that. We are applying to the Gannett Foundation for a grant towards the purchase of a modular stage, and to the Town Council for one for a machine to clean the kitchen and toilet floors.
6. The Maintenance Task Group has carried out numerous jobs of routine upkeep. It never ceases to amaze me just how much effort is required in this direction. It is not helped by all the wilful damage inflicted on the building by aimless children. The Neighbourhood Policing Team is doing what it can, but damage continues. We have listed thirteen larger jobs for particular attention, including installing external cameras and lights operated by movement sensors, a new sign over the main entrance, repair of guttering etc, and repainting throughout. Budgens kindly donated some cameras and equipment, Mr. Ray Parry of Crimeproofing Ltd. has generously agreed to provide the external camera equipment, and a good start has been made on the repainting. All this effort needs to be continued throughout the next year.

F.J. Marples
1st of April 2009