



Paxcroft Mead Community Centre  
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## **Chairman's Annual Report - April 2012 to March 2013**

We have had a good year again.

After the last AGM, Alan Jales stepped down as chair and we thank him for all his hard work. Subsequently Chris Hicks took over as Chair, with Rosemary Hawkes taking over as minute secretary.

In the early summer of 2012 Chris had to step down as Chair and I took over and, with the help of a very supportive committee, I am pleased to report that things are running pretty smoothly. We are in a good position financially – Karen will talk about that shortly. This is due to both Karen's prudence and a good flow of bookings which are ably managed by Don Hatt, our bookings secretary.

Over the year, we have made a number of improvements to the Community Centre. We had new doors fitted to the front and side. Unfortunately these proved to be rather unreliable, so we were forced to change the front doors again, and will change the Mead Club doors when funds allow. The main hall has been completely redecorated and the foyer and meeting room have also received a lick of paint. The outside woodwork was re-treated and the guttering replaced.

We also had a broadband service installed in the building which has proved very popular. We are looking to enhance the distribution within the building so that service is accessible from all areas of the building.

As the building becomes older, we are aware that it will inevitably deteriorate, but the measures put in place by John Marples should ensure that we are in a good financial position to keep the building well maintained for the foreseeable future.

We continue to host a wide range of different activities and groups in the Community Centre. The centre is well used by residents of all ages who hire our spaces for a variety of activities including weddings, christenings, birthdays and wakes. Over the year we secured a number of commercial lettings which are particularly profitable. These lettings allow us to keep our hire rates low for residents for whose benefit the Centre was originally built.

To celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centre opening, the Management Committee decided to fund a bench in the park. The £100 that was bequeathed to the Centre by Edna Collins was added to the money so the bench was dedicated to her memory as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The bench is located along the footpath from the District Centre towards Sussex Walk and Cornbrash Rise.

I would like to close my report by thanking the members of the Management Committee for their continued support. I would also like to thank the members of the Mead Club committee for their support and co-operation over the year which has certainly made managing the building easier.

Jonathan Hawkes. May 2013