

PAXCROFT MEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2016 to MARCH 2017.

We have had another good year at the Community Centre, maintaining a variety of regular users and increasing the number of party and commercial bookings.

With the opening of more new housing, we now provide our facilities to many more families. Our hirers are also coming to us from the neighbouring towns and villages such as North Bradley and Southwick. We are also being recommended by the bouncy castle providers as well as Active Trowbridge as we can accommodate most of the larger inflatable activity equipment.

The Community Centre continues to operate on a very sound economic footing as you will see from the audited accounts.

The professional deep clean that was carried out was very successful and the Management Committee have decided to make it a regular event. The next is fixed for August 2017 over the Bank Holiday.

The programme to replace any failing light fitting with LED replacements has resulted in a considerable reduction in maintenance overheads and is proving to be worth the investment.

Difficulties with the old front door combination lock meant that an alternative solution had to be found. After looking at a number of options, a computerised system that is programmed with different access codes for each user/user group was installed. When the correct code is entered on the external keypad, the electromagnetic door lock is released. The system can be disabled when the door has to be left unlocked, for example, on polling days. Having individual codes means we can track users and more importantly, in conjunction with the CCTV system, capture any abuse.

Plans are still underway to refurbish both the men's and disabled toilets but progress has been slow. We will also look at refurbishing the ladies' facilities as well.

Towards the end of the year we agreed to support the Mead Club in the purchase of new furniture for the bar lounge. This was subsequently purchased in April 2017 and looks very good indeed.

I would like to record a big thank you to the members of the committee who have assisted with running the building and managing the booking meet and greets. Alan Thirlwell continues to do a great job welcoming visitors to the Centre.

It is unfortunate that for personal reasons Karen and Mike Pugh decided to leave the Management Committee at the end of the year. Karen has done sterling work managing our finances over a number of years. We will all miss her. Mike has been very generous with his time, taking on a number of decorating tasks. Karen will continue as a stand-in cleaner when George is away and she and Mike will also continue to carry out the main hall floor polishing as required.

Alan Jales, having recently qualified as a book-keeper, has agreed to take over as treasurer - not an easy job, but he is getting to grips with things now.

Mark Gamble has also joined the Management Committee and has been very helpful covering meet and greets over the past few months. We welcome Alan and Mark to their new roles on the management committee.

We are fortunate to have such a strong team of volunteers willing to put in the time and effort to run the Centre so smoothly. We are still under strength and would welcome some new volunteers.

Jonathan Hawkes. Monday 31st July 2017