

PAXCROFT MEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2017 to MARCH 2018.

We have had another good year at the Community Centre, maintaining a variety of regular users, party and commercial bookings. With some of the local venues closing (United Church and possibly The Town Hall), I expect we will be receiving more enquiries over the coming months.

We continue to attract hirers from all over Trowbridge as well as from the surrounding towns in part due to the recommendation of the various activity providers such as About-a-Bounce, Bounceroo and Active Trowbridge etc.

The Community Centre continues to operate on a very sound economic footing as you will see from the audited accounts. We continue to keep our hire rates very low, but we may have to increase these in 2019 as the fixed costs of running the centre keep rising.

With no major projects taking place this year, it has been a year of consolidation and taking stock.

The programme to replace any failing light fittings with LED replacements has resulted in a considerable reduction in maintenance overheads and is proving to be worth the investment. In areas such as the meeting room and the foyer, we are looking at the cost of completely replace the old fluorescent units with LED fittings. These will provide a better light and will not require any attention for many years.

The new door lock mechanism has been very successful allowing us to see when people have entered the building. Happily this has shown that regular hirers are sticking to their allotted times and not abusing the facility.

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.

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 take the lion's share of welcoming visitors to the Centre along with Mark Gamble and Paddy Reeves.

Alan Jales, having taken over as Treasurer last April has done a great job. The fact that we have the audited accounts so early this year is evidence of that.

George Dowd, our cleaner continues to do a good job keeping the Centre spick and span. We also appreciate the fact he unlocks the building on Saturdays for the regular hirers. Although no longer on the committee, Karen Pugh continues to provide cover when George is off, which is much appreciated.

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. Tuesday 3rd July 2018