

PAXCROFT MEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2018 to MARCH 2019.

We have had another good year at the Community Centre, maintaining a variety of regular users, party and commercial bookings. We have definitely benefited from the closure of other venues around Trowbridge.

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. We managed to keep our rates at the same level throughout the year but will almost certainly have to raise them in June 2020 to keep up with the rise of the fixed costs of running the Centre. Where we can, we have negotiated deals for our gas and electricity supplies which have helped. We are also grateful to Wiltshire Council for giving us maximum relief on our business rates.

The programme to replace any failing light fittings with LED replacements continues to result in a considerable reduction in maintenance overheads and is proving to be worth the investment. In the meeting room the old fluorescent fittings were replaced with LED panels and in the foyer we are in the process of changing to recessed LED lights. These all provide a better light, cost savings 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. The recent investment in an on-site server to control the system means that we now have a remote control facility that allows events to be monitored and the doors to be opened from anywhere if required. The same server also gives us more reliable remote access to the CCTV system.

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. We plan to carry out some remedial work in the men's toilets in early Summer 2019 to replace the rather smelly urinals.

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.

I would particularly like to thank Alan Jales, for his hard work as Treasurer over the last two years. He has decided to give up that role, but I am pleased to say that Karen Pugh has agreed to return to the Committee and has taken over as Treasurer from last April. Happily, Mike Pugh has also agreed to re-join the 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. Wednesday 31st July 2019