

Acting Chairman's Report to the 2010 AGM of Beckingham Village Hall Management Committee

In June of last year the Village Hall Committee made an appeal for new members. Some new members did come to the open meeting, myself amongst them. The current chairman, Nick Ashworth, wanted to resign as Chairman due to work commitments. I found myself volunteering for the role of Acting Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nick, and all the other long serving members of the committee for all the hard work they have put in over the years.

We held a Village Hall open day in September. There was a scavenger hunt around the village, the launch of the book exchange , refreshments, idea sheets and table tennis. The idea of the day was to show what facilities were available and hopefully to stimulate more people to make use of the Hall. The day was very well attended and the book exchange has been ongoing since. Many thanks to Christine who has done a marvellous job of sorting all the books into logical order. I would still call the Book Exchange an experiment but one worth continuing. Thank you to Andrew and James who have been stalwarts at manning the evenings and to Angela Greenwood who has stood in when needed.

Probably the biggest, and most unusual, event of the year was in January. Congratulations and thanks go to Angela Matson who had the vision and practicality to see that holding a play in the Village Hall was a feasible idea and also persuaded the rest of the committee! In the event *The Wind in the Willows* was a very enjoyable sell-out evening. Thank you to everyone who helped make it so. The Matsons also organised an enjoyable Bingo evening in December. Although fundraising is not one of the objectives of the committee the bills still need paying and with little paid use of the hall it does become necessary.

On a practical side the committee identified areas of improvement they would like to make to the fabric of the Hall. The Pack Horse kindly made a donation to help buy some tiles and Daz offered his expertise to advise the best way to proceed. Hopefully this tiling will be completed soon. Some identified safety issues have been dealt with and other improvements are ongoing. Nick Ashworth has offered to undertake a

Risk Assessment Review and when completed that may identify more urgent and legally required work.

It hasn't all been straightforward, a rather large water bill put a serious dent in the finances which the Parish Council initially helped with. Our Secretary then spotted on his home insurance that it could be covered and our Treasurer then dealt with the insurance claim to a successful conclusion. Thank you to Chris and Graham.

Longer term the biggest issue for the Village Hall remains usage. There are no regular clubs, keep fit or other groups who use the Hall. Apart from Community activities such as the Parish Council and Cluster Meetings, Police Neighbourhood Panel and Community Led Planning Meetings there have been limited private bookings. It is to be hoped that the Community Led Planning may lead to a clearer idea of what the villagers want with the Hall. There may be even some groups and volunteers to start using it!

Mikki Young