

UTKINTON VILLAGE HALL 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

A review of the sports court was undertaken. Income for the court had fallen by 71%. From around £700pa to £200.

An open day was held to encourage new membership. It was a sunny day for this event and it was well organised, but it only produced two new members. The current level of membership stands at eight. The cost of cleaning the court was £450, the last time it was done. Feedback indicated that it was not done very well. So the hire fees do not cover court maintenance. The open day resulted in two new members and two further in the 2017 year. At the end of 2017 of the year membership stands at twelve and income £299 a fall off of 57%. The best year for member was 2006, when £956, 36 members was reached.

It was agreed to see if Paul Billington could undertake the cleaning of the court.

Paul cleaned the court in 2017 on a trial basis. He did a good job, removing the weeds and spraying to remove the Algae. The court is in the process of being cleaned, by Paul for 2018. Paul also keeps the hall grounds tidy.

A review of the court rules took place. There was concern about bad behaviour at the court. To prevent this it was decided to display the Court Rules next to the court. A court monitoring process was introduced by Committee members to check on the court from time to time to check that all was well.

To date no reports of poor behaviour have been reported.

A set of standing orders for the conduct of Village Hall Management committee meetings was introduced and agreed by the VHMC.

The old tennis court gate that sat behind the hall has been removed

The new process for payment of hall hire fees was introduced. Fees are now paid directly to the Hall Treasurer. This change has worked well and supported by the regular hall users. The treasurer wrote to all users asking them to pay fee Quarterly, i.e. January February march, all fees falling due by the 15 of April and so on, This system works well.

A communication notice board inside the hall was put in place to assist with sharing hall, changes, information with regular users.

A Christmas card was sent to all hall users wishing them a happy Christmas and thanking them for their support.

Hire of the hall for special events is direct with the hall secretary or the Treasurer.

A review of the Hall Fees took place. These are now, for regular users £7 per hour. For special events £20 for three hours, i.e. Party Hire

The hall has now in place signed formal letting agreements with all its users

The hall is regularly cleaned on a monthly arrangement. The standards are inspected and extra cleaning undertaken as required. Hall users are encouraged to report if extra cleaning is needed. A Large floor duster were purchased to enable users to run over the floor before starting their activity. This has been well received.

A review of the hall Lessors, Lessees and Committee members to see just what was the situation concerning them. The review / rain check was carried out by Margaret Bowers of the WI and the Chair. A revised lease was put in place in 1996. This was done so that the hall was able to apply for grant funding to carry out improvements, as the hall needed to reach beyond WI use only. At that time there were Six Lessors, 12 leases and nine committee members. Many of these have moved away, some passed on, and some stood down from hall activities.

The current situation is three Lessors, six Lessee and nine committee members.

Members will recall that over time the hall has undergone much improvements. The Hall improvement started with the grass tennis court becoming a hard surface Sports Court. The hall outside of the hall was painted. The next improvement was a new ball roof and insulation.

The hall then went under extensive refurbishment. A complete rebuild and much improved insulation. New windows and front door. Decoration and improvement, such as bunting, Christmas lights and up-lighters to make the hall cozy and welcoming at night. The old curtains replaced by blinds by the WI. Art work was donated and

hangs on the hall walls.

A major art work, Utkinton Hall was donated by a Northwich artist It hangs over the window side fireplace

The Disabled toilet was installed and later redecorated to a high standard.

The Hall kitchen was much improve with new equipment, new work surfaces, the floor recovered, improved lighting, redecorated. The hot water boiler brought back into use

The unused furniture was remove to declutter the hall in 2016 Two New Hall heaters were installed in 2016.

The last major improvement, which always seemed a distant goal was to have a new floor. Again grant funding was sought. And the new floor was laid in August 2017. The Chair asked the contractor if it would be possible to extent it into the Ladies Cloakroom at no extra cost and this was agreed, much improving the Ladies Cloakroom. In fact when the new floor was purchased a lower price was achieved. This has been donated to the ball (about £400 pounds.) New door entrance matting was purchased and two new entrance doors.

The Hall roof had developed some leaks and this was attended to as the floor was put in place.

The next major work is to have the hall redecorated. The hall has not been decorated since 2008/9. The Chair and Margaret Bowers have walked the job with the intended contractor and we will cover this as an agenda item later.

A big thank you to all who have helped with the hall improvements over the last twelve years. Raised the money, filled in the grant form, fund raised and done some heavy lifting. Undertaking repair work as needed. Not easy and all takes time and much effort, freely given. You can all take pride in what you have achieved. Thank you for your work. The village has a traditional Hall, that bas not lost sight of past days, but is "Boutique", in style, if that is an expression that may be used. We should be proud of it

The Chair 25April 2018