

Portfolio Holder Reports

Sparsholt Memorial Hall – Chair's Annual Report 2015/16

The Memorial Hall has continued to thrive during 2015 and I would like to thank everyone involved in the running of the Hall for all their hard work over the last year.

One big change during the year was the resignation of Elaine as Caretaker and the appointment of Chrissie. Thanks to Elaine for her contributions during her time as Caretaker.

There have been other changes during the year – Marie Bush resigned as a member of the Committee after many, many years of sterling service. We had a small party to thank Marie for all that she has done for the Hall and the Memorial over the years. We are very grateful that she will continue to look after the Memorial for us.

We were very sad to learn of the death of Irene Minns in October 2015 – she was heavily involved in the rebuilding of the Hall and was Caretaker for many years before she retired. Her family have kindly asked for donations towards the running of the Hall in remembrance of Irene.

We continue to have regular events in the Hall involving the WI, Pilates, the Parish Council, the Shop, church FOSS, Badminton, Fencing and others. There are Brownie groups still regularly visiting us and of course the school is our main user, and we continue to work with them on their requirements from the kitchen. Unfortunately, our income for the Hall has fallen from previous years. We have tried to improve the appeal of the Hall by decorating the front with some large planters – thanks to Wendy for organising this and ensuring that the plants continue to look good. We may need to pursue other strategies in 2016 to attract more hirers.

During the year we have made valiant attempts to solve the ongoing issue of the piano – we still hope that a villager will take it once an appropriate removal company has been identified. We have not however been able to make any progress on the issue of traffic/parking.

Roger Young is still keeping our accounts in order – we have had a low-spending year in terms of maintenance and projects which has off-set the decrease in income, meaning that our balances are still healthy and we are well above the minimum emergency reserve that we have set.

We are also very grateful to Terry for keeping on top of all the maintenance issues which inevitably arise – these costs have also been kept well under control again this year, in spite of minor problems with the cesspit.

Thank you Fred Blakemore for continuing as our Independent examiner of accounts and a special thanks to all the Parishioners who serve on the Committee.

Liz West continues to organise the 'clients' a thankless task.

Finally, thanks to Sue 'Secretary' for the clarity and precision of her notes and actions without her I would be wandering in the dark.

Richard Summerfield 15 May 2016