

Sparsholt Memorial Hall – Chair’s Annual Report 2016

There have been some significant changes at the Hall during 2016, although it has continued to thrive with usage levels being maintained and I would like to thank everyone involved in the running of the Hall for all their hard work over the last year.

At the end of the year, Chrissie resigned as Caretaker, and we decided to split the role of Caretaker from that of Cleaner to try to find the right people for the roles. We have now appointed Mary to be the Hall cleaner and are working on the caretaker role and how this will be carried out. I would like to thank the school for their forbearance while we were without a caretaker/cleaner, especially for their excellent levels of cooperation with the Committee during a difficult time. Having the key code entry box has enabled us to give regular users access to the Hall without the need to have someone attending each time.

Our regular Hall users continue to be the WI, Pilates, the Parish Council, the Shop, church FOSS, Badminton, Fencing and others. Brownie groups still regularly visit and of course the school is our main user, in fact their usage continues to increase. We have hosted many events, including: the Harvest Supper; Xmas Pantomime; Xmas Fair; School events and of course the Shady Greys fund raiser which helped us with our funding of the Hall this year, for which much thanks.

One highlight of the year (at least for the Hall Committee!) is that the piano has finally been removed and a small sum was received by the Parish Council for it. This has resulted in a good clean-out of the storage cupboard and the sale of some of the older tables. The storage area is now much more tidy and accessible – thanks to all involved in getting this organised.

We have also made progress on the issue of the old telephone box. The Hall charity has purchased it and is in the process of leasing it to the Shop for its use.

I’m very pleased to report that Marie Bush has returned to the committee and is doing her usual sterling work in keeping us going.

Terry has once again done an excellent job in keeping on top of the maintenance issues, including getting the roof tiles cleaned off and the electrics fixed as necessary.

The profit for the Hall has decreased from last year, but we have had a lot of expenditure, particularly the new windows – which look great, thanks to Wendy for arranging this. We still have the necessary reserves in place – thanks are due to Roger for keeping a handle on the finances for us.

Special thanks go to Liz for picking up many of the pieces after the sudden loss of our Caretaker and for all she does in organising our hirers and keeping them in order for us.

Finally, thanks to Sue “Secretary” for her work on the notes and minutes each time we meet.

Following this report being presented to the AGM of the Hall Committee, in March, the decision was made to proceed, as quickly as possible, with the appointment of a Hall Caretaker. I am happy to report that Paula Monteiro has been appointed Caretaker and started her new role on the 20th March 2017.