

Village Hall Chairman's Report to Parish Council General Meeting on 23 May 2017

It is fair to say that the Village Hall has been a part of local life for over forty years. From its inception, through a myriad of fund raising efforts, designing, constructing, fitting out and then opening, through the managing of it, and its users, for the benefit of the people of Broadway for the past thirty years.

In fact, the Parish Council did reject the idea of a Village Hall, deciding that it was not wanted! A change of Councillors was required to reverse that thinking! The Hall has been many things to many people over the years. It has hosted christenings, birthday parties, weddings and wakes. We have had a model flying club use the hall, with a range of helicopters, and control tower, bad weather forcing them indoors. We have had country & western music dance club; we have had Tai Chi, ballroom dancing, keep fit, and many others.

We currently have a wide variety of users, from short mat bowling club, The University of the Third Age with badminton & soft tennis. We have beavers, cubs and scouts, karate, parish council, Broadway amateur theatrical society, and as a regular everyday user, the Neroche playgroup (more about them later.) We have regular visits by the Isle Valley flower club and we are used for regular lunches by The Ilminster Old Girls' Association. We have regular quiz nights and other fund raising events by the Friends of Broadway Church. We also host a lot of other events, murder mystery plays being the most recent. We have had nearly new sales, breakfasts and bingo evenings. The most recent event was the young Bats Musical Mayhem last weekend. I hope that I have mentioned enough to show that we are a very busy concern.

During my tenure as Chairman, the management team have been pursuing a policy of repairing, maintaining, revitalising and modernising the hall. After thirty years, there is a lot to be done. To give you a very much abbreviated list of what we have done recently:- replacing lighting with low energy lamps where possible. New outside flood lighting, new signage, new boiler installed, car park lines renewed, fences constructed around the side of the hall to add security for the children. Replacement upvc double glazing to the whole building. We have repainted the whole inside of hall, Jubilee room, toilets, and recently the kitchen. We have installed an industrial dishwasher, replaced all the curtains and sanded and re-varnished the wooden floor - this is again planned for this summer! Oh yes, we also negotiated a 99 year lease to the medical practice, and connected the hall to direct mains drainage.

I mentioned earlier, Neroche playgroup. I am sure that most of you will be aware that the playgroup has been at the hall for what must be nearly at least 20 years? This is coming to an end this summer. The playgroup will be moving to a new venue at the primary school for the start of the next school year. I am pleased to be able to tell you that the school and the hall are in negotiations, with the aim of the hall providing facilities for two year old children. We are confident of a positive outcome, with a long term agreement in place by this summer.

I would like to conclude my report with three points:-

1. The hall is in good shape, we are busy, and we are looking after it.
2. The hall is run by volunteers and, just like this council, volunteers are in short supply. We need more of them and they need looking after.
3. My final point is to offer a heartfelt thank you to my colleagues in the management team, secretary Nick Urch, booking secretary Amy Crouch, and treasurer Peter Blears. The village is indebted to them for their hard work and dedication in running the village hall.