

Drinkstone War Memorial Institute

Report to the Parish Council

2018 - 19

As we approach the 6th anniversary of the opening of our New Hall I am pleased to be able to report that our healthy income from bookings and from fund raising have not only allowed us to continue to improve our facilities but also, once again, to maintain booking fees at their previous levels, both for regular hirers and local residents. In 2018 -19 we have had 489 bookings, exceeding the previous year's total by more than 18. Of these 17 were children's parties, 30 were one-off events and two were wedding receptions. The remainder were made up of our regular bookings. Thanks to the revenue from these bookings and from our other revenue streams such as the recycling banks, solar panels and the Village Draw and Bingo, we have been able to continue to ring fence a substantial reserve in order to provide us with sufficient funds to pay for maintenance and repairs to the building in the future. Our annual accounts will be presented at the DWMI AGM in June.

During the year we have also upgraded / purchased a number of items. We have:

- replaced the cooker with the help of a grant from Penny Otton
- replaced the very old outside trestle tables
- contributed to the purchase of the stage
- replaced the original lawn mower which gave up the ghost after many years
- replaced the old laptop which was cobbled together from two old ones
- in addition we have been able to engage a contract cleaner on a quarterly basis to deep clean the toilets and the kitchen

For the last year or so we have become increasingly concerned about drainage problems in the car park, and have been investigating the causes - depending on the findings it is likely that remedial action will need to be taken and that the car park itself may need to be re-surfaced in the near future, a job which will require considerable capital investment from our reserves.

The Management Committee continues to meet monthly and during this year we have introduced new Safeguarding and Risk Management Policies, planted a tree in memory of Ray Bland, and were very pleased to take part in the WW1 Armistice Commemoration by mounting two panels of hand knitted poppies, one on either side of the front doors.

For variety of reasons the Events Committee decided to give the fete and dog show a rest this year – organising the event required an enormous amount of work and during recent years it had often been spoiled by heavy downpours. However, our efforts to run a wide range of events for the community, such as the Pub Nights, Race Night, Sale Trail and Tuesday Club, will continue and we are constantly reviewing ideas for new ventures. We are very grateful to all the many Drinkstone volunteers who are always willing to support our activities in so many ways – without their assistance running the events would just not be possible.

Finally I must say a huge thank you to the members of both the Events Committee and the Village Hall Management Committee, with special mention of Tony Schmitt and Robert our caretaker, who readily give of their time and efforts to make sure that the Hall continues to be a safe and welcoming venue, and a focal point for many of the good things that make Drinkstone such a wonderful place to live.

Sue Foulsham
DWMI Chairman
May 2019