

REPORT TO THE PARISH ASSEMBLY FROM THE BLISWORTH VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION MAY 2019

The Village Hall continues to be in regular use by various clubs. Most use is as always by Pre-school, followed by Bowls, Pilates, Film Club, Heritage Society, WI, and BMC (Mothers Club). Special events include New Year's Eve meal and disco by BMC, Christmas Afternoon Tea and Mother's Day Afternoon Tea both organised by Andrea Holton of Blisworth Festival and Janet Steeper of WI. This year Grafton Scouts have used the Hall a couple of times and there have been 6 children's parties, a baby shower and a wedding party.

Once again we were pleased to be able to host the Art Show weekend and the Canal Festival weekend. BMC (Mothers Club) membership has increased even higher and they continue to use the Main Hall for their winter meetings with another successful New Year's Eve Party and a 50 year anniversary meal for the Club..

Our main improvement to the Hall this year has been the redecoration of the upstairs room and making good any minor wear and tear elsewhere. The strips lights in the upstairs room have been improved with a more comfortable light for those doing Pilates. We have been successful in obtaining a grant for the replacement of the Village Hall roof. Planning permission is being sought for the replacement roof tiles. The contractor advised that replacement of the tiles was the better option than trying to use the existing. Work is hoped to start in the summer holidays to minimise disruption and providing the Planning Permission comes through. We hope to do some other work on the exterior such as the rendering while the scaffolding is on site.

Many thanks to Maureen Lucas' daughter, Kerry for doing an excellent job of standing in for her mother while Maureen has been on sick leave. We are so pleased that Maureen is on the mend.

The accounts for the year end 31st March 2019 have been published and our income and expenditure has not varied very much since the previous year. (copy attached).

The 250 Club

The 250 Club, continues to thrive, thanks to Estelle Rose and her band of collectors with only 3 spaces available now. It provides a much needed boost to our funds and helps with the upkeep of the Hall.

The Playing Fields

The road up to the Football Club car park has been repaired by the VHPFA although we do not have responsibility for it.

Damage to the new surface of the track by the owners of the mast (Arqiva) has been repaired and we are grateful to the Scouts and Football Club who shared with us the cost of the shortfall once Arqiva had made a donation.

The Football Club have installed the CCTV using the grants from among others Tesco's Bags of Help. However it did not prevent some damage to the far pitch. The Club is working hard to obtain grants towards their aim of building a new club house. The London Marathon Grant allocation team is interested and South Northants New Homes bonus have promised £30K. The rules for registering leases have changed since the Scouts registered their lease and the VHPFA trustees needed to have their identity confirmed by a solicitor. We are still consulting on the additional lease requirements but are in the process of instructing our

own solicitor to protect the interests for the village. Thanks to the FC for agreeing to pay our costs.

Ann North Secretary Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Fields