

The Manor Hall at Coalpit Heath

Registered Charity no 1093035
Henfield Road, Coalpit Heath, South Glos BS36 2TG

Statement from the Management Committee

As you may be aware, we have been going through a prolonged and difficult period of negotiation with the owner of Coalpit Heath Pre-school. This process has repeatedly been hampered by the widespread publishing of misleading information, not least in apparent attempts to make the situation part of a political campaign. Despite this ongoing aggravation, we have finally managed to reach agreement.

Wendy Lacey (trading as Coalpit Heath Pre-school) has been offered, and accepted, a new contract which allows her to continue operating her business at the Manor Hall for the immediate future. We will continue working with Wendy to offer this valuable service to the local community, as we have since the Trust was formed in 2002.

Wendy has also accepted the increased level of rent, which we believe compares very favourably with others in the area. It still leaves the Pre-school business paying significantly less than our other regular users would be charged for the two rooms! In addition, even with this discount, the rent is all inclusive and therefore covers most of the Pre-school's major overheads - from Council tax, heating and electricity to the nappy bin service and toilet rolls.

As with all our users, the Pre-school is also benefiting from the major improvements to the facilities at this Grade 2 listed building, which have been achieved over the last few years, due in no small part to the commitment and effort given voluntarily by our Trustees, and the dedication of our Hall Manager / Administrator.

As a sole trader, Wendy Lacey has, however, made the commercial business decision to delay the Pre-school's start time until 8.30am for now. This is because she currently has too few children coming in before the main session begins at 9am to cover the extra rent and staffing costs that were incurred by opening earlier.

Should the situation change so that it becomes economically viable for the Pre-school business to open earlier we will, of course, be happy to re-negotiate. It's the rental income from all our users that allows us to continue maintaining and improving the Hall for the benefit of the whole community!

The Manor Hall Management