

**Fifehead Magdalen Village Hall**  
**AGM**  
**19 Oct 17**

**Chairman's Report**

This report covers the period from 31 August 2016 to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

**1. Fund Raising**

During the reporting period we held two principle fund raising functions. In April we had a Call My Bluff supper evening which proved to be very entertaining and in June we held an evening with Bonny Sartin with a BBQ. Earlier in December 2016 we had our usual Christmas Party for the village which was free entry. This included a bar to raise funds for the village hall. The funds raised in these events are shown in the annual accounts.

The committee would like to thank all those who attended our fund-raising functions. We are very grateful for your continued support.

**2. Soup Lunches**

Following the continued popularity of our Soup Lunches we held Soup Lunches in the village hall in September, October, and November 2016 and January, February and March 2017. These were well attended and raised £253.83 for village hall funds.

My thanks to all those who provided the homemade soups and to Peter Figgins for providing the homemade bread. We will continue the Soup Lunches again this year on the last Friday of each month, the first of which will be held on Friday 27 October.

**3. Maintenance**

In March the annual inspection of the village hall fire equipment was carried out which required us to replace one of the water fire extinguishers.

In May the 5-yearly Electrical Inspection Condition inspection and report was undertaken together with a full 3-hour test of the Emergency Lighting System and Portable Appliance Test on 5 portable electrical items in the hall together with the associated rectification.

At last year's AGM we discussed concerns about the state of the village hall roof. We are closely monitoring the condition of the roof both externally and internally but have not, as yet, commissioned a professional survey of the roof, largely because of the cost involved. However, we will continue to monitor the situation.

**4. Village Hall Business Rate Revaluation**

During November and December 2016 the village hall was subject to the national business rate revaluation. The initial forecast by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) suggested an increase in the ratable value from £1,275 to £2,606 per year. However, we identified that the floor area used in the valuation was incorrect and out of date. With the help of Peter Figgins who produced

detailed drawings of the actual village hall floor area we were able to argue for a reduced rateable value of £2,550. This was subsequently reduced during further negotiations to £2,125. Once Transitional Relief, Mandatory Relief (80%) and Discretionary Relief (10%) were taken into account we actually paid £61.08 in Business Rates this year compared to £63.37 in 2016. However, the level of Transitional Relief will be reduced year on year over the next 5 years to zero. So we can expect higher business rates bill in the coming years. My thanks to Peter Figgins for his help in resolving this issue.

## **5. Hall Hire**

I am pleased to report a significant increase in income from hall hiring which reflects a wider range of people and organisations hiring the hall. These included:

Ivers House (Marnhull), Fifehead Magdalen PCC, Fifehead Magdalen Parish Meeting, Church Wardens meetings, Body Rhythm Movement and Dance Classes, Pilates Classes, and Sherborne Wives Fellowship Lunches.

## **6. Thanks**

In completing my report, I wish to thank the members of the committee for their continued support. I am very grateful for the energy they put in to organizing the fund-raising events and soup lunches and making them happen.

In particular I would like to thank Rose Figgins who is standing down as our Treasurer and leaving the committee. In addition to her role as Treasurer Rose has been an active supporter of all our activities be it a fund-raising event or soup lunches. Thanks also to Peter Figgins who has provided invaluable support in generating the flyers for our fund-raising events and soup lunches, and for making the homemade bread for the Soup Lunches.

## **7. Conclusion**

As you will hear shortly from the Treasurer, the increase in hall hiring has allowed us to achieve a healthy excess of income over expenditure.

I am once again delighted to see the hall being used by a wider range of hirer which is helping us to keep our finances in good order. The village hall is here for the benefit of the villagers and others so let's use it.

In the coming year we will continue to investigate different fund-raising options which we hope you will be able to support and enjoy.

## **8. Forthcoming Events**

- a. The next Soup Lunch is scheduled for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017.
- b. Village Hall Christmas Party will be on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017.