

Appleby Village Hall Management Committee (AVHMC)

Newsletter January 2014

The AGM was held on Thursday 28th November 2013 and the chairmans report below highlights the highs and lows of last year.

Chairmans report:

At this point last year it was by no means certain that we had a sufficient number of people to form a committee to ensure the continued use of the hall

This annual report gives me an opportunity to reflect on those events and developments which affect the operation and management of the village hall and also to make note of the contributions made towards its continued success in providing a social centre for the local community.

The death of Mrs Tilley Long has left a vacancy on the board of trustees. Tilley had a long association with the hall as a proactive supporter, a regular attendant at its social events and her cheery demeanour will be sadly missed.

We also received the resignation of our longest serving member. Colin Worsley had given years of valued work and service to the many activities of the hall committee and was a staunch supporter of its role in the village. He was a great advocate and it is my hope he will pursue this in his role as a trustee.

Anyone who used the hall during the winter months will recall the failure of the gas boiler and the problems we experienced keeping the building warm and safe from the freezing conditions. The ensuing difficulty in locating the services of a heating engineer with the relevant qualifications and a willingness to do the job meant we had to rely on portable oil heaters for a sustained period. In February we obtained the services of Neil Whittingham who has dual qualifications for LPG and Oil boilers. He made temporary repairs to the gas boiler which lasted the winter months and has subsequently serviced both machines and replaced some of the ageing components. Both systems are now fully operational.

In May of this year the hall was burgled and the kitchen hatchway broken into. The perpetrators stole the wooden box containing cutlery.

Thankfully this was the only damage sustained and served to make us aware of the need for a review of our security and procedures. Additional bolts and padlocks have given doors a greater resistance but there can be no substitute for vigilance when leaving the building.

We are extremely grateful to Mrs Carol Newton whose generous donation was used to purchase new sets of cutlery. These will serve to remind us of the time and effort Bill Newton gave to the work of the committee.

In early 2013 we undertook a survey. This canvassed opinion regarding future events and asked for support and volunteers so that we might more directly deliver activities which met the needs of the village. From 190 surveys we received 19 replies.

The 'Themed' nights (French, Italian and pub) were a direct consequence of this and each of these have been considered very successful by those who attended.

We also gained several new volunteers for Fayre day and four of these Carol and Dave Newton, Penny Owston and Graham Thompson, have joined the committee. Finding your niche is never easy but the theme night quiz questions and repairs to outside lighting and field water supply, would suggest some people have a natural fit in the overall management team and they are all very welcome additions.

It has been a busy year for the committee and the hall continues to be the hub for a variety of activities in the village. This would not be possible without the support and hard work of a generous group of people whose activities range from the delivery of leaflets to cooking the food on quiz nights. Cliff Chase, Dave and Barbara Mumby deliver domestic services which often go unnoticed but contribute to the image of the hall for its users. Audrey Stainton continues to be the first point of contact for many and Suzanne Fernando's efforts ensures press coverage for fayre day.

Special thanks should also go to those who accepted office at the last AGM. John Clark's fiscal ability keeps the financial affairs of the hall

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on track and his unstinting enthusiasm and games organisation on Fayre day has become a main ring attraction. Jenny Hook and Fiona McIntosh have developed a double act which underpins the culinary events of the year as well as bringing their organisational skills to the business of the committee itself.

My thanks also to Natalie Hogg .Her response to the urgent need for expertise, knowledge and organisational skills was to make a return to the position of secretary from which she had previously resigned.

It is important to understand that without these officers the hall would not have continued to operate. The need for new members willing to contribute on the committee still exists to ensure the future development of the hall and the service it provides and we would welcome anyone interested in taking part.

In presenting this report I conclude by thanking the Trustees for their continuing support and hope that the events presented in Appleby village hall during the next year will build on the successes of the past.

Paul Johnson, Chairman

The 2014 Committee members are:

Chairman : Paul Johnson, Treasurer : John Clark, Secretary : Natalie Hogg , Minute secretary : Fiona McIntosh, Booking secretary : Audrey Stainton ,100 club: Jenny Hook ,Church representative : Barbara Mumby , W.I representative : Suzanne Fernando, Football representative : Dave Newton . Graham Thompson, Penny Owston & Carol Newton

We meet at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of every month in the village hall and go through a planned agenda dealing with any issues arising. Copies of the minutes are stored in a folder in reception for anyone interested to read.

In order to survive for the future we need help with the following:

New people on the committee -if interested in joining the committee please contact :

Natalie Hogg tel: 07551931293 or

Paul Johnson tel: 07828425088

Help with social functions -If you don't want to make a permanent commitment to the committee but would be willing to help out at social functions please contact Natalie and Paul as above.

Help with Fayre day – there are lots of jobs associated with Fayre day and the committee feel strongly that last years success would not have been possible without the support of villagers. If you would like to help at Fayre Day please leave your name and contact number with Natalie (07551931293) and the Fayre Day Organising Committee will contact you nearer the time.

In village hall running costs are now in excess of £8,000.00 per year. We need as much help as possible with fund raising to ensure the future of Appleby Village Hall. Any help and support you can give will be greatly appreciated.