

Annual General Meeting 2018

Bourton Village Hall Management Committee

Chairman's Report

It has been another busy year with plenty of well attended fundraising events and some new regular activities in the Hall.

The weekly Bowls Club, Zumba classes, Cubs and Beavers as well as the monthly Village Lunches and garden club continue as do the Writing Group and Craft & Chat. Cubs and Beavers have attracted new members and now meet in the main hall instead of the committee room; recently they held a sleepover which proved popular. Unfortunately Greek Dancing did not attract enough dancers but next month two Pilates Classes will start on Monday evenings. Our film nights provided by Moviola continue to be popular though we need to spare a thought for Nick Hall who runs the data base of several hundred names as he grapples with the new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). We had a couple of excellent live events thanks to Artsreach and shared one, The Laurent Quartet with St George's Church in a new venture for both organisations. This year's pantomime in March was very impressive indeed and the performances were largely sold out. Due to the only snow storms this Winter the first performance had to be cancelled and although an extra matinee was arranged for Sunday afternoon it proved difficult to make up the shortfall in tickets sold (we offered a refund for Thursday's performance) and the profit was significantly down on previous years. Two other attractions have been the World War I play based on the women from Bourton and surrounding area who worked in the Hindley munitions factory in Bourton; entitled "On Them Our Lives Depend" it

was written and directed by Sue Ashby and Tony Benge. Trevor Bailey, one of the directors of Windrose Rural Media Trust gave us a fascinating evening of archive film from the local areas of Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, dating from the beginning of the 20th Century to the 1960s and accompanied by beautifully sung folk songs.

An important milestone was passed when the Neighbourhood Plan was voted for by those in the village on the electoral role and subsequently approved by NDDC.

The Trustees and Management Team

Biddy's retirement at the end of this meeting reduces the number of Trustees to five which is not enough so we are looking for two or three suitable persons to join the Management Committee with a view to becoming Trustees at the next AGM. We have said "good bye" to Viv Tomlinson one of the eight original Trustees, she stepped down last year and during this year retired from the VHMC having served for over ten years. We are very grateful to her for ideas for and help with fundraising; also the useful contacts she has provided during that time – the dishwasher is one of her "finds" which would never have come our way if she had not known of a hotel with one to sell at a knock down price. Tom Shean is still taking time out from the committee as his family is expanding but he continues to advise on matters electrical and we hope he will return to the VHMC when time allows.

We are very fortunate to have Elaine Chapman who has taken on the role of Secretary – she is not a member of the VHMC but comes to all the meetings and is wonderfully professional and efficient. Happily for us she is married to the Project Leader for the new Hall and takes the minutes for the meetings chaired by Mike Chapman. We welcome the

following as members to the Management Team: Mary Lissenburg, a long time helper at the lunches and supporter of our events, Caroline Worthington as the representative for St George's Church and Louise Hodgson, who is a key member of The Bourton Players; Their help and commitment is greatly appreciated. Sam Ross and Alex her son offered to join the MC though Sam's business means that she finds it difficult to get to the meetings; she makes up for this by generously providing some of her famous cakes for the Village Lunches as well as manning the bar when she is available. Alex is a great addition to the team, he has dramatically lowered the average age and comes up with new fundraising ideas – which he then delivers. He is our contact through Facebook with the younger members of the community. I am happy to say that Roma continues to play the role of Sgt Major – checking on the state of the Hall most days and spotting potential problems before they become dramas. Even with our electrical dishwasher there always seem to be items for Roma to wash up and she continues to keep the kitchen spotlessly clean. Everyone, Trustees and those Management Committee works hard to run the Hall and make sure that people have a good experience when they hire it or come to our events. We are a good team I would like to thank everyone very much indeed for all they do and for the enthusiasm with which they do it. We know many people really appreciate us and that makes it all worthwhile.

Thanks too to our occasional helpers who turn up and assist at the various events: Nick Robinson, Tony Moorby, Rosalie and David Watkins, Liz Flower, Jenny Dee, Sue Ross, Kath James, Barbara Borwell and others.

New Hall Project Team

Mike Chapman continues as Project Leader and all Trustees are automatically members of the team. At our second attempt we were

successful with our appeal to Awards for All, the small grants wing of the Lottery Fund, and have been awarded money to help with our consultation period which will enable us to gather the information needed to complete the Feasibility Study part of our Business Plan. We held two successful events in the hall to inform members of the village, answer their questions as well as listen to all the ideas people have for what a new hall might be able to offer. Afterwards we felt strongly that there is a great deal of support from the different age groups within Bourton. I reiterate what I said last year: Mike is a busy man and we are very grateful to him for the time he spends and for his generosity in sharing his experience and expertise helping us to understand the intricacies and pitfalls involved when delivering a project such as this. Mike will address the meeting shortly and update us on where we stand now that the NP has been approved and there are two possible sites for the new building.

Future Plans

We will continue to provide, within the limitations of this building, a well maintained and well equipped venue for those in the community wishing to make use of it and as in previous years, put on events as often as we can offering a choice entertainment for all ages and tastes. Following on the successful evening last November Alex Ross is running a second Quiz Night on 2nd June. He and Tom Shean are organising The Bourton Beer Festival (The Bourton Bash) on 25th August and we will be participating in The Village Day on 22nd July running the Tombola and Bric-a-Brac stalls.

With the site selection due to be made before the end of the Summer our aim now is to narrow down what we as a village require in a new building, where we should future proof it and where we can save money.

With the remaining Awards for All Lottery funding we plan to hold an event in which we will invite this community to a final “gathering” and inform them of the proposed plans for both sites and give them a chance to comment on the sites. A decision on which of the two sites will go forward as Bourton’s choice for the new hall will then be made by the Parish Council before going to the Planners in NDDC. We hope this will be achieved before the end of this year.

Thank you all for coming – we will do our best to answer any questions you may have when we get to the end of the formal part of the meeting. Please do approach us with comments and suggestions as it is really helpful to know whether or not we are getting things right. Even better, you can join our management team or become a friend of the village hall and help as and when you can. We have space in our weekly diary for more classes or groups if anyone can drum up support for an activity they feel is lacking.

Harriet Palmer

15th May 2018