

West Haddon Village Hall AGM 11 July 2023

Chairman's Report

In my report I will not attempt a review of all that has happened in a busy year for the Village Hall, the officers' reports give the view on the detail of our affairs.

Here I want to draw attention to the largely unseen work of our Secretary, Treasurer and Booking Secretary, which allows hirers to enjoy their events conveniently, comfortably and with confidence.

Over the past three years they have set up our website from which everybody can check the availability on our calendar, request their hiring and make payment. They will find all the information about facilities and guidance for a successful event, and who to contact with any queries. The intelligent system behind all this is Liz, Molly and Jacky

Supporting the public face of the Hall, these officers and our small committee facilitate the daily running of the Hall, medium term maintenance and improvements such as the replacement of the fluorescent tubes with LED lighting, PAT testing, setting the mouse trap, unfreezing the pipes, 3 month's worth of Friday Winter Warmer opening, and occasionally dealing politely with an unhappiness.

Then at our monthly officer's meeting we progress the regulatory requirements like safeguarding and health and safety – superbly supported by Northamptonshire ACRE. We have good ideas for the intractable problem of access to our car parking, Molly keeps an excellent list of what we should do next and this year we've particularly enjoyed the complexities of grant funding applications. All of this we bring to our committee who I thank for keeping us on track.

Most excitingly we are currently in the middle of our ambitious Showtime project collaborating, with the West Haddon Players to modernise the lighting, audio and video set up so users can have all of these facilities available for their use as part of their hiring, and we can attract more cultural entertainment such as the inspired Canterbury Tales last Friday. This will also make us more attractive to out of village hirers who naturally compare us to our neighbouring halls and will bring in valuable revenue. We are making good progress with getting grants and you will see the results before our next AGM.

I'm particularly humbled by the daily readiness of Liz, Molly and Jacky to keep this running so expertly and professionally, buoyed up by Molly's monthly reminder that we are doing this because we enjoy it. And we do, and would like more to join us in the pleasure.

So I give my annual thanks to these professionals for allowing me to sit here like that lady figurehead on the prow of Nelson's flagship.

Richard Lilleyman

Village Hall Chairman

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