

TRUSTEES REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CRUDWELL PARISH COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 23RD APRIL 2016

2015 was a busy year for the village hall and thus for the nine trustees who manage everything from bookings to maintenance to finance etc.

Operating income from regular hirers increased this year, and that from ad hoc hirers remained on a par with last year. Our rental income continues to cover our day to day running costs of the hall. Significant operating expenditure included the cost of re-decorating the hall as well as the cost of a music licence which we are now required to have in place. Hire charges were reviewed in May as usual and it was decided to maintain our policy of a small annual rate increase.

After consultation with the Bike Ride committee, who do our fund raising for capital projects, it was decided to use capital funds to re-tarmac the lower half of the car park. The Malmesbury Area Board granted us an award of £2894.91 towards this expense, with the balance being taken from our capital funds. Having redecorated the hall in the summer, we had to plan to replace the curtains to bring them in line with current regulations, which require curtains to be made of fire proof material. The Malmesbury Area Board again helped out with a grant towards the cost of these, and the Parish Council also made a contribution. Sophie Harris and Karen Franklin deserve special thanks for their hard work making the new curtains which saved a considerable sum of money for labour costs. During the year, the PreSchool committee approached us with a request to replace the radiators with 'cool touch' radiators. After much discussion and investigation of all possibilities, it was agreed to share the cost on a 50/50 basis between the village hall and PreSchool.

Many people worked on these improvements so thanks to them all for their help but special thanks to Gordon MacPherson who managed all three projects from the early negotiations to managing the contractors and then as part of his maintenance role to ensuring any snagging was noted and carried out. Sadly, due to work commitments, Gordon has had to step down from the committee this year. He has done a fantastic job for over five years keeping the hall running on the maintenance side, and we will miss his input greatly.

However, over the summer Nigel Kelly took on the role of part time caretaker. This has been a gap for us since George left, so thanks to Nigel for taking this on. We continue to be indebted to others who help with general maintenance at the hall, especially Chris Hoxey and Tom Murphy.

The Bike Ride committee ran another very successful event in 2015 and, as ever, we are indebted to those who work so hard to keep this event going, not only for the funds raised but also because we feel it is such an important part of our village life. Five members of the Bike Ride committee stepped down this year, having done more than their fair share of the organisation for many years. We are grateful to them not only for their help over the years but also for their support ensuring a smooth handover to new members. In view of the ever increasing concerns about safety, this year we have had to add an extra marshal point which means that we now need a minimum, and I emphasize minimum, of 96 marshals in order to run the event along with another 36 on the check-in/out board, plus all those who help in the admin tent, on the field and around the course itself. So you can see that it is a mammoth task and all offers of help would be gratefully received.

The object of our charity is to 'provide and maintain a village hall and recreation ground for the use of the inhabitants of the parish of Crudwell'. Our current reserves, after allowing for a contingency base of £10,000, are in the region of £25,000 and it was agreed towards the end of 2015 that it is our responsibility as trustees to use this sum and proceed with much needed improvements to the internal structure of the hall. Aside from the inevitable need for a more modern, user friendly and hygienic kitchen, we also want to attract and be able to accommodate larger ad hoc bookings at weekends, such as weddings and evening parties. In addition, Crudwell PreSchool, the main user of the hall, is in need of a secure storage space.

Our plans are to extend the kitchen, create a separate bar area, provide a lockable storage room for PreSchool and remodel the remaining shower area. I have an outline for these plans with me if anyone would care to see them later. The preliminary work for this is currently underway and we are on course to commence the work during the school holidays this summer. However, the total cost of all this work, if we do everything that we want to do, will be in the region of £65,000, and on top of that we have to add VAT. Even with our current reserves, obviously we are well short of this but we are in the process of making grant applications and, of course, we are hoping for another successful Bike Ride, which last year netted us just over £8,000. Even if we cannot complete all the work this year, we will make a start and thus fulfil our obligations as a charity as well as creating a healthier environment for our users.

A Smith
Chair & Treasurer 2016/17
Crudwell Village Hall & Recreation Ground