

Draycott Memorial Hall

Report for annual Parish Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council - 16th March 2023

There are currently 10 people on the management committee and each person is now responsible for a part of the running the hall, e. g. minor maintenance, electrics, plumbing etc. which seems to be working well with each person reporting back to the meeting any progress or work done during the month. There are 4 officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) and 6 members who are all trustees of the Draycott War Memorial Institute.

We have managed to recruit one new committee member in 2022/23 but are still a couple of members short.

Income for the financial year ending 30th September 2022 was £33,579 plus an additional £4,000 covid grant, expenditure was £24,038. Figures for the first 5 months of the current financial year show income at £16,118 and expenditure at £13,079.

Our 100 club is still popular with local residents and has a membership of 101 for the 2022/23 season.

Charges were increased by 10% from 1st January 2023, an increase in energy costs being one reason why we had to raise fees. Having been in a 2-year contract, we were brought back into a new contract and we can see from monthly figures how increases in gas and electricity costs are starting to show.

The hall's regular user groups now are: - Mendip Players, Draycott Bowls Club, Rodney Stoke & Draycott WI, Cheddar Bowls Club, Cheddar Male Choir, Cheddar Valley Community Church and Whist Drives. Sessions of Pilates, dance classes, Zumba and an art class are other weekly run events. The Draycott & Rodney Stoke Village Show, School PTA, Lazy Lunch, Royal British Legion's Remembrance Day are annual events which also use the hall's facilities. We also hire out the Corrick Room four times a year to Bouquet of Cheddar who make up flower arrangements for Mother's Day, Easter, Valentines Day and Christmas.

During the year, we have been continuing to look at bringing film shows to the hall, our application for lottery funding was turned down but to test the water we have joined as members of Cinema for All and have run one successful pilot in February, hiring the screen and equipment. The event was well attended by 73 adults on Friday evening and 33 children on Saturday morning so we have our first piece of the jigsaw that there is interest in the community. We are holding another film show on Friday 24th (Elvis) and Saturday 25th March (Encanto for children). After the results of those 2 showings we will make a decision how we move forward.

Our supplier has been back to re-quote for suitable equipment and we still have the donation from the Thurmand family plus the £975 from the parish council to put towards the purchase of equipment.

Changes during last year

- Our website has been completely revamped and now has a modern appearance with plenty of photographs of the hall and it's facilities.

- Bookings are now managed via the Hallmaster software that we purchased last year, this enables users to make their bookings on-line and invoices for hires to be sent out automatically at month end. This has now been live since 1st January and is getting good feedback from our hirers.
- Our premise licence for bar facilities is being offered to local hirers and is being used where hirers are known to us.

Plans for the future

- The hall is now 22+ years old and needs regular maintenance to keep it fit for hire, the committee have undertaken to re-paint the main hall lower walls and new flooring has been put down in the corridor to the toilets. Maintenance is now a regular part of the running of the facility.
- We did have a contract with Kingfisher Windows to replace the 4 x bottom level windows on the playing field side of the main hall, the work should have been done in spring 2023 but Kingfisher have decided to cease trading and their quotation given has now been handed over to Paul Tripp who has agreed to do the work for the same price – installation is hoped to be done in the summer.
- Other items which will need to be replaced in the near future are the boiler which is as old as the hall. The roof is showing signs of paint flaking on the southern side so we are bearing these major expenditure items in mind for future expenditure.
- The committee are looking to provide a mid-summer event, similar to the Strawberry Fayre but on a smaller scale to boost income and other plans are for a wedding fair and table top sale.

Stephen Young

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Secretary – Draycott Memorial Hall Management Committee

15th March 2023