

## Newchurch Village Hall – Report for Parish Council AGM

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Village Hall continues to be a valuable asset to the village although it would appear that it is mainly non villagers that seem to use it regularly, with a few exceptions. The Hall bookings have increased significantly in the past year, with several bands using the Hall for rehearsals.

Unfortunately, the First Steps Toddler Group packed up at the end of the summer term due to the fact that nearly all of the children were leaving to go to school and of course lack of support from Newchurch Residents. The majority of the children came from neighbouring villages.

The Saturday Coffee mornings run throughout the summer months were very successful and raised over £1000 for the Hall funds. Our thanks go to Mrs Baxter and her band of volunteers for their sterling work.

Last year we had to have new RCD boxes in the main hall, this was due to the fact that the old ones no longer complied with current regulations. This was quite an expensive exercise.

We also managed to get the last of the emergency exit doors changed in the main Hall and also the four upper windows. This now completes the replacement of all the doors and windows in the main Hall. A great deal of help with the cost of this was through grants from Councillor Carole Waters from KCC. I would like to publically thank her for her assistance with this. I would also like to thank Mrs Apps for the hours of form filling that this has required.

In early December we noticed damp patches appearing on walls and Messrs. B. E. Ames Ltd were asked to investigate. They found that there were some leaking pipes under the floor. You will have noticed that since then there has been remedial works ongoing. I am pleased to say that this is nearing completion now. Thankfully it is going through our Insurance company. Of course this will no doubt affect our premium, but that after all is why we are insured.

Late August, Mrs Parkington resigned as our Letting Secretary for the Hall. Thankfully Mrs Dunning has taken over the role and we are very grateful to her. Our Treasurer Mr Colin Ashton has now moved away which has made things a little awkward at times. He did say he would continue until August but if we could find someone earlier it would be better. Mr Peter Dunning has stepped forward and we are in the process of changing things over. Which is a great weight off of my mind. Colin has done sterling work but as you can imagine with someone who now lives some distance from us it is not ideal. I would like to thank him for all his hard work and to welcome Peter to the Committee. At our last AGM Mrs Noble through pressure of work stepped aside as Vice Chair and Mrs Brenda Wimble has taken over this role.

You will notice that the Hall now has Wi-Fi. This has been another long and difficult task because of our situation of not being either a house or a business, we seem to fall in the middle somehow. Mr Bruce Waitson has persevered and it has now installed at last.

I would like to thank my Committee for all their help and support throughout the past year.