

Village Hall Newsletter – Message from the Board of Trustees

I'm sure most of you will already know that Graham Baldwin and Bev Haywood have stepped down from their respective roles of Chairman and Treasurer of the Trustees after three years, during which they have both devoted an enormous amount of time and effort. They have fulfilled not only their primary roles but carried out many other functions in the running of the Hall. The fact that it is so successful and in such good shape, both physically and financially is, in no small way, due to their efforts. On behalf of all the Trustees I wish them well in their 'retirement'. They will not be leaving the scene completely as Graham has agreed to complete the Solar Energy Project which he instigated and which is very dear to his heart. And I'm also pleased to report that Bev has also agreed to remain as a trustee, having decided not to move away from the area.

I was honoured to be asked to be Chairman of the Trustees and hope that I can continue the excellent work which they have done. Since becoming chairman there has been plenty going on. Many of you may already know me through my involvement with the Hall, Parish Room and the panto group over the years, and I hope to meet you all in the near future at meetings and functions. I was a member of the old Parish Room committee and also of the working party which oversaw the building of the Hall, and, having had a break, I am pleased to be involved again. Stanley Gibson will be the new Treasurer as well as taking an active role in the day to day running and maintenance.

I would also like to pay tribute to Margaret Taylor who has been Clerk to the Governors for the past three years. Sadly, for the Trustees at any rate, Margaret has also decided to step down as soon as a replacement can be found. Margaret has quietly and efficiently translated the, often rambling, conversations and discussions at the meetings into concise and lucid minutes. She will be another hard act to follow.

I'd like, as Chairman, to thank all of you, members of 'the Friends', for the support you give to the Hall and I hope that you'll continue to do this. We have a wonderful village amenity which never fails to attract praise from first-time visitors, and of which we can be very proud, but this standard can only be maintained if it continues to be supported by organisations such as yours.

There are also several other new Trustees who will make themselves known to you in the coming weeks, and vacancies exist for at least one additional Trustee and a 'Clerk to the Trustees', which you may wish to consider if you would like to become more involved.

Joan Gibson, who has been booking clerk for ??? years is stepping down at the end of June and I would like to thank her for all of the hard work which she has put in. She has been a wonderful ambassador for the hall, meeting prospective users, unlocking and locking and ensuring everything is left clean, tidy & secure after use, as well as organising bookings and the diary. It's been a very time-consuming role which she has fulfilled excellently. Thank you Joan. I'm sure she'll remain involved in some capacity, not least by keeping Stan on the ball in his role as treasurer.

Johanna Morgan, who has been a member of Areley Kings Players for several years has kindly agreed to take over as booking secretary from the 1st July, I hope you will give her your support whilst she gets to grips with the role. The phone number will be the same, just a different voice on the line. It's an indication of the community spirit in the village that we have people willing to take on these roles.

Of course the main news item for the Hall has been the installation of the solar panels, which Graham Baldwin will be reporting on. This has been a major expense and, we hope investment which would not have been possible without the support of the Friends. We have also recently had the main hall floor stripped, sanded & re-coated. It not only looks good but I'm told it's an

excellent surface for dancing on. These two major purchases have stretched the finances of the hall and some other items which, it was hoped, we would be able to complete, have been postponed, however the trustees have decided to buy additional security devices in order to prevent theft or damage to the hall. Whilst on the subject of security can I ask everyone who is responsible for locking up after activities to ensure this is done correctly. There have been a number of occasions recently when the front doors have been only partially closed or the car park gates have been left open overnight. Please always lock up even if you think there may be other users coming in after you.

OK, that's me done.

Best wishes

Rob Fowler, Chairman of Trustees Areley Kings Village Hall
June 20th 2011