

# THE SHUTFORD VILLAGE HALL TRUST

(Charity No. 304364)

## Chairman's Report for the year ended 31 March 2019

This first full year's activities of our new village hall has continued with a very high level of varied activities and many small but important improvements to the venue. All our hirers and visitors have commented very favourably on the building and villagers have worked very hard to put on events and fund raising for the hall itself and many other local charities.

The electrical installations have been finalised with the provision of dimmable lights in the main hall, wall lights in the lay-by and flood lighting to the war memorial. Racking has been installed in the storeroom which has greatly improved access to the increased number of tables and also more cooking equipment has been purchased for the kitchen but most noticeable is the "Shutford Village Hall" signage on the front stone façade. We have also acknowledged the great contribution made by Gordon Freeman to the creation of our new village hall in the form of a plaque located on the rear wall of the main hall. The flag pole has been repainted and installed in a prominent position, close to the war memorial, by the road, which was readied in time for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, when a sizable crowd of local people paid their respects to those villagers who fell in the two World Wars.

The regular village organisations' activities all continued throughout the year and we must sincerely thank all those people who have helped in organising and running of these. Every fund raising contribution is valued but special note should be made of the regular Thursday lunch "Meet and Eat" events that have raised so much money for the hall, the Church and other charities chosen by villagers. The food has been excellent, varied and open for anyone to attend or for the "take-away" option. Monthly Sunday morning breakfasts are appreciated and also been well attended. The Saturday/Wednesday evening film clubs events have brought a wide variety of entertainment for the enjoyment of the membership, which has grown well particularly with the addition of children's shows. Yoga and Pilates classes have proved popular too and monthly painting classes on Saturday mornings and a new Art Group on Tuesday evenings provide an opportunity for villagers to exercise their skills. The card making classes have also proved popular.

The few snagging issues raised with Genesis, our building contractor, have been reconciled, issues are still apparent with the doors and their locking mechanisms, but fortunately security had not been compromised. The AV system gave problems when the mid room I/P connection failed, making inputs from portable devices impossible. Unfortunately, the original supplier had closed down, so Blinkhorns came to the rescue, identifying the problem, supplying and fitting a new wall plate. We have now learned how to regulate the heating system much better and have had few complaints since weekly programming was introduced.

A new project was also launched during the year, jointly with the Church, where we are planning to provide a direct access between the Village Hall and St Martins Church, in the form of a flight of steps at the west end of our site. Money has been raised against an initial budget and quotations from various sources have been sought.

The financial report shows a very successful year and we must thank our committee and our many volunteers for their enthusiastic work that has made all this possible.

Roger Bancroft  
May 2019