

Chair's Report. Village Hall AGM 3rd June 2013

This last year has been considerably less demanding on the Committee than the previous year in the absence of any major project.

Thanks to Sue Sulkin's efforts and despite the loss of the Playgroup, the hall continues to be very well used by the community with both regular groups engaging a wide range of age-groups, individual hirings and ad hoc private events.

The newly installed kitchen seems to be working well and in general, hall users have been noticeably careful and the new paintwork throughout the hall is lasting sufficiently well not to need an annual redecoration this year. The floor has also remained in good condition and should not need resealing for at least another year.

Our thanks as always go to Trevor for his rapid response on a whole variety of maintenance issues that are constantly being thrown up. His freely given time and skills mean that we can keep hall hire rates down and remain solvent.

Beyond the work that Trevor carries out, we have had to address a serious drainage issue. Tree roots had invaded the old clay pipe drainage system between the Hall and the manhole nearest to the road, almost completely blocking the system. It was sufficiently serious that it could have caused complete malfunction of the sewer system, particularly at a time of increased usage such as a big event. During the half term break at the beginning of October, Brad Perrett of BNH replaced the old clay pipes with a continuous 110mm diameter pipe between the 2 manhole covers. The pipe is surrounded by gravel to divert any further root problems, and installed at a depth of about a meter below the tarmac. The cost for this was £1200, and was largely covered by a generous donation from the Village Fete.

Other external contract work required was to remove several major limbs of a willow tree that were threatening the oil tank. At the same time, tree surgeon Paddy Needham, removed a number of small, spindly trees close to our northern boundary in the "wilderness area" behind the hall. These were causing significant loss of light to Jill Southam's house and garden; a small recompense for all the work she does keeping the flower beds next to the car park tarmac so attractive.

New wooden sleepers have been purchased and installed on the edge of the tarmac to protect the garden area and boundary fencing from damage by reversing cars.

Mr Ferns of Dorset Conservatory Blinds from Poole serviced the roof roller and blackout blinds in May this year. These were beginning to fail to move easily and needed a good clean and springs replaced.

On the drama and music side, the hall has hosted a really good selection of Artsreach events thanks to the efforts of Fran Parker and Ian Scott.

