

Harlton Village Hall Trustees - Chairman's Report to the 2023 AGM.

Eight Trustees were appointed at the Village Hall Charity AGM on 16 March 2022, Roger Mortimer (Chairman) Maggie Gibbons (Secretary) Lon Spencer (Treasurer) Lucie Coleridge (Health and Safety), Linda Brown, Fiona Davies, Tony Vernon Smith, Sara Frost. The Booking Secretary is Margaret Spencer.

Finance, Treasurer's Report, Health and Safety Having served in the role of Health and Safety Officer for 16 years, Linda gave notice that she wished to stand down at this AGM, but would continue to serve as a Trustee. Her term of office has been a busy one, culminating in her successful management of the Hall's adoption of the procedures required by the Covid pandemic. Linda has been succeeded in her role by Lucie.

Maintenance - Past concerns about the condition of the Hall floor have meant that the Trustees felt obliged to consider the need for its replacement. Some exploratory work including the drilling of bore holes in the existing structure was carried out which appeared to confirm this, as did a detailed report carried out by Helen Axworthy of R H Partnership Architects, arranged by Fiona. Three floor contractors' quotations and Helen's report have been submitted to our Landlord, the Parish Council, who have given approval for the Trustees to manage the project. A sub-committee will be set up to include a member of the Parish Council to oversee the appointment of a contractor and the work itself. At the same time consideration is going to be given to the installation of a new heating system for the Hall.

Cleaning - The Hall continues to be cleaned by Berrin Hobbs.

Social Programme - The fallout from the pandemic continued to influence social gatherings for much of the year. A village picnic on the Glebe organised by the Trustees to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee was well attended. The Christmas Social was reintroduced, on this occasion to take place in the time before the annual Carol service in the church. This arrangement was welcomed by the church organisers and considered worth repeating at Christmas this year.

Conclusion Lon continued his success as treasurer in ensuring that once again we did not miss out on any Covid grant that was available, this year's contribution came from South Cambs and means that we should be in a position to fund the floor replacement and still be left with a healthy balance. Income flow from our hirers continues to grow, the increase of 5pc in our fees in September does not appear to have been a deterrent to demand. The booking arrangements continue to be run by Margaret Spencer, whose highly efficient management and good relationship with our hiring community has ensured its' success. Isabel Robinson continues as the Parish Council representative at our meetings and is a welcome contributor to our discussions.

I will be stepping down as Chairman at this AGM and am very pleased to say that Fiona has accepted the nomination as Chair to succeed me. To my amazement I find I have been in this role for ten years, which is clear evidence of how much I have enjoyed the company of and working with my fellow trustees. Finally, my thanks to Maggie, our secretary and to all my fellow trustees for their individual and collective contributions to our team in all their efforts to support our precious Village asset.