

St Mary Bourne Village Centre
(Registered Charity No. 301936)
Chairman's Report for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 26th February 2020

The Village Centre is a registered charity that was established by a trust deed in 1952 with the object of providing and maintaining a village hall for the use and enjoyment of people living in the parish of St Mary Bourne and surrounding area. We aim to provide local people with facilities that they want to use so what they have to say is important to us. Our AGM is a good opportunity for us to receive and discuss feedback and new ideas as well as to let people know what we've been doing and what we are planning for the coming year.

This is also an opportunity, for me personally and on behalf of the local community, to thank all of the people involved in the running of the Village Centre and also those who run activities in it on our behalf. We truly appreciate all that they do to enable us to provide this community facility.

The Village Centre is run by a management committee of volunteers. There are currently seven committee members, three of which are the charity's trustees (myself, Mel Cavell-Wells and Mike Case) plus Michael Widén (who manages our invoicing), Angela Cook (who manages our bookings and enquiries), Ray Randall (our caretaker) and Oliver Madge (who kindly joined us during the year).

Most users of the Village Centre will know Angie and Ray as they, together with Carol Wall, take care of the day to day running, maintenance and cleaning of our facilities and we simply cannot operate without them. Michael manages our invoicing as well as working closely with Angie to collect income so efficiently that we can barely remember what a bad debt is! Oli has kindly taken on the role of our health and safety officer, Mel is our treasurer and manages our finances and Mike has taken on the role of secretary. We are greatly indebted to them all for their hard work and dedication.

I also want to thank Lorna Hancock for giving her time to run the Community Library operating in the Club Room each Saturday morning. This is a valued community service now that we no longer have a mobile library and we are very grateful to Lorna for providing it.

Another person I must thank is Claire Gervat who runs the Film. For another year Claire has done a great job organising, publicising and running the Film along with her team of helpers. Whilst audience numbers may vary from month to month, over the course of a year these screenings of current and popular films just about manage to pay for themselves (helped by bar takings!) and they are a valued and enjoyable community event that we plan to continue. Thank you Claire.

Whilst the trustees are ultimately responsible for the running of the charity, most decisions are made by the management committee and all trustees serve as members of the committee, typically having been members of the committee before becoming trustees. This arrangement gives newcomers a chance to learn about a trustee's responsibilities before taking them on. Oli joined the committee during 2019 and I am very happy to report that he has agreed to put himself forward for election as a trustee tonight. We are still looking for one more trustee as ideally we should have five and, hopefully, we may soon have new committee members interested in becoming trustees in the future.

Trustees are elected for a 5 year term and Mike and I are up for re-election tonight and Mel next year. The management committee meets quarterly and the trustees have a couple of additional meetings so there is not a big time commitment and joining the committee is a good opportunity to give something back to the community that we are lucky enough to be part of.

Turning to numbers, the Village Centre was well used in 2019, with overall lettings exceeding our budget expectations by a considerable amount. A good proportion of our income comes from our

regular hirers, in particular the Parish Council, and we are appreciative of the continued support of our regular hirers. I would also like to thank Jo Exelby, the Parish Council Clerk, for her willingness to give way to other bookings of the Club Room when requested. Occasional hirings for parties and other events have also been at a good level this year.

Our Treasurer's report explains our financial position as at the year end and Mel will cover the numbers in more detail. We budget to make a small surplus each year as we are a charity and not running a profit-making business. Any surplus we make is invested in maintaining and improving the facilities. Having budgeted conservatively for 2019, we ended the year with a surplus against budget of £6,098, largely due to not having spent as much on repairs and maintenance and new equipment as we had anticipated and balanced by higher than budgeted income. Some of the expected spend on repairs and maintenance has now already been spent on decorating the Club Room and substantial work we had anticipated doing on the Club Room exterior last year is now scheduled for this Spring.

We continue to hold a prudent level of capital as we know that there are capital projects that we will need this for in the relatively short term. We have identified that a large part of that capital will be needed to fund planned/expected expenditure on the fabric of the building and replacement equipment in the next few years and so is to be regarded as expected expenditure and not free reserves. It is because we have maintained that prudent level of capital that we will be in the fortunate position of being able to meet much of the necessary expenditure.

We were lucky to have the Watermill Theatre bring their touring production of Our Church to us last year and we are pleased that they will be bringing this year's touring production of Camp Albion to us on 22nd June. We have also booked another professional touring production of Abigail's Party for 24th October and hope to book another Christmas pantomime for the end of the year. Look out for full details in Hill and Valley in due course. Last December we again hosted two professional touring company pantomime productions, Little Red Riding Hood and A Christmas Knight, which were both well received. Thanks to Michael for managing the box office and front of house for all these events and to the committee members who helped with set up and refreshments.

Repairs and maintenance in 2019 were mainly of a routine nature and included replacing a couple of heaters with radiators. We are now spending some of last year's anticipated spend on the Club Room. No doubt much to Mike's relief and thanks to the support of a good grant from Basingstoke and Deane, the oil tank has been replaced and so this year we plan to improve and landscape the area around it to create an attractive outside area. We continue to look at options for replacing the main hall lighting system as replacement of that system is becoming more of a pressing need and is likely to be a major expense. The main item of new equipment was a complete set of new plain white crockery as the old set was missing many pieces, which is to be expected after 25 years use!

This is the community's facility to use and enjoy so please bear us in mind if you are planning a party or other celebration, a meeting, a theatrical event, a sporting or recreational activity, an exhibition or any other event that the Village Centre could accommodate. We welcome feedback or other comments or suggestions about the Village Centre so if you have any please let me or another member of the management committee know.

Our website (www.stmarybourne.co.uk) shows the facilities we have on offer and what they cost to hire, lists clubs currently using the Centre and has all necessary contact details. You can also find us on Facebook. There are frequently notices in Hill and Valley too.

Finally, a big thank you to all of our users and to all of you for taking the time and trouble to come to this meeting about your Village Centre.

Karen Crofts
Chairman