

RICKINGHALL VILLAGE HALL REPORT 2017

2016 was another very active year for Rickinghall Village Hall, with 524 indoor bookings plus many more outside for netball, soccer and tennis. Hall hires were again for a surprisingly wide range of uses, with the Hall continuing to be a primary social centre for the village as well as the hub for community activities – and all managed and staffed wholly by volunteers. More than 40% of the Hall's income comes from events organised and run by members of the Hall Management Committee, and this enables hire charges to be kept at very competitive levels. Without the generous gifts of time and support from the Village Hall team, and from those who attend events or support the monthly lottery, it would not be possible to offer the facilities which we have.

The most frequent hirers of the Hall were the Day Centre, RaBBaTs, Aerobics, Zumba, Positive Steps, and Slimming World. There were also further education classes, dances and celebrations, children's parties, and various committee and other meetings including the W.I. and the Heritage Circle. The many less regular events ranged from jumble sales to elections, as well as those organised by the Hall team themselves, which included the monthly Farmers' Market, the Christmas Craft Fair, February's Grand Jumble Sale, the May Model Railway Show and, of course, the annual Fireworks Party. A wide range of activities for a relatively small village!

Outside facilities funded and maintained largely from the Hall's income include the children's play area and skate park, neither of which of course produce any income but are important village facilities. In the fenced and floodlit games area, meanwhile, we again hosted both winter and summer netball league matches, as well as soccer training for the youngsters, and the field was busy as always with both formal and informal games and other activities.

The most obvious expenditure during the year was for a repaint and lighting upgrade in the main hall, and a defibrillator was installed outside the main entrance, funded jointly between Rickinghall W.I. and the Hall. Income last year was up by nearly 10%, mainly as a result of increased revenues from the events organised by the Hall Committee. Overall finances continued to be on a sound footing, with adequate funds held to cover both ongoing expenses and any likely surprises; we now look forward optimistically to another year in the busy life of this very popular facility.

Bob Clark
Chairman