

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM OF EATON BISHOP VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2024

The past year has been a time of consolidation. Over the past 12 months, the Village Hall Management Committee has focused on two main issues. The first of these has been the continued effort to increase the energy efficiency of the Hall along the guidelines advised in the report that we commissioned from Trevor Hewitt and his colleagues. Apart from the environmental benefits to be gained from reducing heat loss from the building we would also hope to decrease the cost of running the Hall. This would help to reduce any future running cost increases and make the Hall a more competitive and comfortable venue for those hiring the building. Secondly, there has been progress made in terms of safety issues for those using the Hall. However, I will not go into any more detail on these topics as the Maintenance Team report will give a summary of what has been done since our last AGM in 2023.

Previous initiatives, introduced over the past couple of years, have been well received by those using the Hall. In particular, the audiovisual equipment has both simplified and enhanced speaker's presentations, for example, to the Gardening Club and Historical Society. The installation of the dishwasher has also made a major improvement to life in the kitchen. The monthly Village Market continues to be well supported and, in addition, has evolved to become a significant village social event as well. I would like to thank all those who help to maintain the good mix of items sold by those stall holders attending each month.

On a sadder note, I feel it is appropriate for me to mention three supporters of the Village Hall who have died in the past year. Peggy Tomkins was a regular attender of the Wednesday coffee mornings and appreciated the social value of this increasingly successful occasion. As well as being a venue to meet friends from the village, the coffee mornings now offer the services of a hairdresser, chiropodist and healthchecks undertaken by Taurus Healthcare. Edna Whittington-Fleckner also died earlier in April this year. She and her

husband, Nigel, regularly supported Hall activities through the donation of cakes and prizes. A third person, who may not have been known to you all, was Jack Bloomer. Jack and his wife, Celia, lived at the White House and, whilst he had lived in many other places in the UK and around the world, he regarded Eaton Bishop as his favourite place to call home.. Over his time in the village, Jack became very much involved with many events taking place in the Hall.

In conclusion, I would like to record our appreciation for the help offered to the Management Committee by so many people in the community. This help and expertise is so essential to the success of so many of the Hall's activities.

Finally, as Chairman, I would like to personally thank the whole Management Committee for their efforts in running the Village Hall so successfully. In my experience, few committees have worked so willingly and effectively together.

Tim Coleman 26th June 2024