

Trustees' Report

Swanland Village Hall continues to be managed by a committee of eight trustees, who meet formally approximately every three months as well as for the Annual General Meeting. There are sub-committees for marketing the Hall, and for its maintenance and for purchases.

Bookings for one-off events (110) showed an increase of ten percent and twelve percent on each of the first two years (100 and 98), and it appears that there will be another increase this year. Long term bookings (17) were well up on our first year (14), but were down by one on last year (18).

The number of events in the Village Hall open to the general public has grown. This is mainly due to the introduction of performances of music, drama and films promoted by the Swanland Village Association under the auspices of Artery.

Private bookings for celebrations and parties have also continued to increase; these have ranged from children's birthday celebrations for about thirty to large celebrations such as anniversaries or retirement parties for up to 120 guests.

Fund raising events for village organisations such as quizzes or dances have attracted up to one hundred or more participants, and there have been a number of small conferences.

The committee have seen the need to provide the necessary facilities to attract such events to the Hall. As a result the committee has purchased a sound amplification system with an induction loop for the hard of hearing, as well as a demountable stage system. These have been made affordable through grants from Yorkshire Forward Community Intervention Chest, The Foundation for Sport and the Arts, the Co-operative Community Fund and the Sir James Reckitt Charity. In addition money was raised through our 100 Club lottery; this has lost a few members recently but still has a membership of over 140. To improve our kitchen facilities we had a double sink fitted.

In our lease we are committed to redecorate the interior of the Village Hall every three years. Accordingly we had the whole of the interior painted in August.

Due to her personal circumstances we lost our caretaker, Mrs Maureen Wilkinson. After some difficulty in attracting suitable candidates, we appointed Mr Robert Chippendale. After only four months he resigned from the post, and we had to advertise again. Finally we appointed Mr Andrew Short, who is already proving to be very suited to the position. Before this appointment we had already taken on a cleaner to reduce the workload of the caretaker, and put the bulk of the cleaning into more specialist hands. The cleaner, Mrs Sam Larter, works approximately five hours a week and her work is of a very high standard. Occasional working parties of trustees carry out cleaning and maintenance tasks in addition to those performed by the cleaner and caretaker.

Swanland Library continues to occupy two rooms as sub-tenant. The library appears to be popular and during the year initiatives were taken to increase usage.

The balance sheet remains healthy and we look forward to continue to build on our success by providing a high quality service to the users of the Village Hall.