NEWLAND VILLAGE ROOM

REPORT TO AGM 16 AUGUST 2023

2022 saw Newland Village Room activities returning to something more akin to normal. The Room was hired out to the Parish Council, for a wedding and other private parties, Pilates classes, Tango practice, band practice, therapy sessions, wreath making, Ladybirds and Book Club. Tables, chairs and marquee were also hired out for events off site.

In June, we collaborated with All Saints and The Ostrich to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, featuring circus performers and two music groups. We were grateful to the Parish Council and private individuals for grant aid to enable us to put on a most memorable day, preceded by a more sedate Coronation tea the day before at the Village Room. Other community events included our regular First Friday Club and draw, a cheese and wine evening, and an American duo playing folk.

As the treasurer’s report will show, our finances remained very healthy due to Covid grants in 2021 and an additional Covid Grant from FODDC of £2,667 in 2022.

Having undertaken a wide number of improvements in 2021, we were able to purchase new curtains and blinds for the Village Room on a William Morris theme to complement the age of the building and its Forest location; we were very grateful to Jules Pritchard for a most generous donation towards this. Extra square pop-up tables were also acquired to enable the Room to be set up in a more informal arrangement for certain events. In addition, 100 good quality dishwashable plastic glasses of each, beer, wine and flute were purchased for outside events as a green alternative to disposable ones.

The 100 Club membership grew in 2022, and subscriptions amounted to £3,347, with £1,636 being handed out in prizes, giving the Village Room a healthy £1,711 net profit to contribute towards Village Room projects.

With 2022 ended with a very healthy bank balance, the Committee decided that it was time to take the bull by the horns and deal with the issue of the outdated, leaky and probably illegal septic tank arrangements to the rear of the building. We obtained 2 quotations from trusted contractors, and decided on appointing Ben Lewis to do the work. Thanks to Dave Allerton for casting an eye over the details and giving Ben a grilling. The works cost £9791.40 (inclusive of VAT) including removal of 2 macerators, replumbing the kitchen and loo waste, supply and fitting of tank and electric aerator, and restoring and re-gravelling the outside area.

With this considerable expenditure, and our outgoings increasing, we are even more grateful for the support from the 100 Club members to help us keep the fabric of the building maintained and to enable us to continue to improve it.

I would like to mention Will John, who has kindly continued to cut the grass outside the Village Room, and everyone who has rolled up their sleeves for us from time to time. However, I would particularly like to thank the marvellous committee members for their hard work, support and ideas.

KLD 16.08.23