

Bridgerule Village Hall Limited

Mr C Hitchings, as Chairman, provided a report on behalf of the Hall Committee.

IMPROVEMENTS

Since April last year, we have managed to replace the hall floor with vinyl tiles, which are water resistant, easy to keep clean, and have a 15-year guarantee. The rear kitchen has been completely replaced with new units, two ovens, a new water heater, two wash basins and a new slip proof floor. The rear toilet has been replaced. The storage cabinets in the kitchen have been retained, but with new doors. All new electrics have been fitted together with floor mounted heaters.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Replace the hall roof with box section insulated roof sheets, rebuild and reroof the entrance porch, and refurbish the old theatre storage area.

FINANCES

We have received £23220 in grants and donations, and just received a further grant from Trusthouse Charitable Foundation of £5400, which will enable us to start the refurbishment of the theatre store. We applied to the lottery (Building Communities) for £55000 to replace the main roof and rebuild the front porch. We have been successful in getting through to stage 2. We are in the middle of applying for that and will possibly be doing a village questionnaire on the use of the hall to bolster the application. Financially we are in quite a healthy position, but a lot of the money we have obtained is ringfenced for particular projects.

ACTIVITIES

The lunches that started last October have been a tremendous success, with numbers growing each month. Coffee Club is very successful. Short Mat Bowls are full, and so is Table Tennis Club. The dog obedience now runs twice each week. The Art & Craft section is very popular. Beat Bounce, who meet on a Monday, have three sessions. The defibrillator has been taken out four times and used once. The pads have since been replaced.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Part of the application to the Lottery involves ensuring the hall is used by all age groups. We are having two free sessions of Hip Hop & Street Dance for children from age 3 – over 9 years. It has also been arranged that there will be exercise sessions for the older age groups to help keep people fit. The Lottery have asked us to do a consultation and evaluation exercise and we have approached all the regular hirers, private users, people that have given us donations, and other interested partners for their comments. We have had many replies saying how much the hall has improved and would like to thank the council for their response.

GENERAL

I would like to record our thanks to the parish council for the support that you have once again given us over the last year. It is very much appreciated. When we do eventually get the roof done, we would like your permission to put scaffolding up, and to store building materials in the grounds outside whilst the work is in progress. Since we started in April 2013, we have spent £124,886 on refurbishment.