

BRADFIELD VILLAGE HALL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014

The Hall continues to be well used during the week in term time, although Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings are rarely booked. Some of these bookings continue during school holidays but weekends are generally quite quiet. We don't get as many dog shows as previously, largely because our facilities aren't good enough now and locals don't seem keen to use the building for events other than children's parties. This highlights the need for a new building with proper kitchen facilities and toilets with disabled access. The Hall has had to make a small increase in our charges since January and along with a tightening up of the way we do things; we hope to have become more efficient. There is still work to be done with the constitution and the website and we need to increase the Hall's usage.

The sub-committee working on the new building have been talking to a variety of architects and have asked two practices for a more detailed submission. The final decision will be made in the next week. We are hoping to be able to go for planning permission by the end of this year or early in the New Year.

Last May, the Watermill Theatre returned with an excellent live theatre production and they will be returning at the end of June this year with "Hardboiled: the Fall of Sam Shadow". In January, we organised a very successful Jazz evening with music supplied by Bradfield College staff and students, raising just short of £3,000. These events have proved very popular and have brought the new building fund to about £4,500. Only another £995,000 or so to go!

Looking ahead, we need to raise significant money to enable us to build better facilities here. We will be arranging a meeting for the village to discuss future plans and will be holding more events to raise money for this project. We will also be seeking out grants.

The committee are in the process of applying for an alcohol licence, to enable regular groups who serve alcohol in small quantities to comply with licensing laws. However, private parties will still have to apply for their own licence as the Committee doesn't wish to be responsible for these events. We will also be asking for a film licence, in the hope that the idea of the film club can be resurrected successfully at some time in the near future. In order to apply for these licences, the terms and conditions for users of the Hall are being extensively revised.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support towards the upkeep of the field and other unexciting, yet necessary expenditure, as well as our Village Shop for their donation which has enabled us to buy some mugs and utensils for the kitchen. We are also grateful for the Mayfayre grant towards the tennis court repairs.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee for their support this year. A huge thank you to Di House for her many years as treasurer and thank you also to Sam Grey for being willing to take Di's place; to Eva for her secretarial support, to Debbie taking the bookings and to Leigh for the cleaning, distributing keys and in particular, locking the gate late every evening.

Christine Evans
Chairman
28th April 2014