

Latchen Room Management Committee Report 2017-2018

As always, regular Management meetings have been held every six to eight weeks. At the AGM, Des Halliday stood down as secretary after a number of years and was replaced by Roger Noblett. Pete Histed has taken on the role of vice-chairman and we were happy to welcome Steve Palmer to the Committee as the representative of the Luncheon Club.

This year has seen work continue on the lower rooms and it is good to report that the larger one has been well used for Tae Kwon do, meetings, a fortnightly art group, some balance classes and also in conjunction with the upstairs room for a successful craft fayre.

Upstairs all rooms were decorated by CGS Property Services who also undertook minor repairs. They were very efficient and not many bookings needed to be cancelled. The floor was sanded and re-stained by Roger Noblett, Des Halliday and Pete Histed. This proved quite a difficult undertaking but with good results. In the kitchen, a dishwasher was installed which has been used by WI, the Luncheon Club and some outside caterers. Because some cupboard space was lost, another big cupboard has been built allowing some reorganisation of storage.

Regular deep cleaning has been undertaken by Committee members and other volunteers. This has been more challenging due to the decoration and sanding of the floor. The chairs have also been steam cleaned although it has been almost impossible to remove all the stains made by food, glitter glue, paint etc. It is a concern of the Committee that some users don't clean tables after use or brush the floor and at times the toilets are left in an unacceptable mess. Les Meadows continues to clean Latchen Room upstairs and down weekly.

The Roger Kerlake room has been regularly used especially by the bowls club. The Committee has decided to apply for planning permission to put French doors in the end wall with a small balcony outside. This was not applied for originally because the use of the room has changed from storage to a sitting area following the loss of Little Feet and their storage needs. Two large tables, narrower than the existing ones are going to be purchased for use in this room and the kitchen.

Outside a big improvement has been made to parking with the extension of the car park at the back. Hedge cutting, weed control and litter picking are ongoing to keep the area around Latchen Room looking smart. A sign has been put up which states that people leaving cars in the car park do so at their own risk. We also request regular users not using the main hall to park at the back so that those that are using Latchen Room can park near the door, especially those less mobile.

Plans for the future apart from the new doors in Roger's room include the decoration of the outside of Latchen Room, installing blinds downstairs and looking into data protection and the information we hold on file.

Unfortunately it has not been possible for the Committee to adopt the accounts before this meeting due to a hold up with bank statements over Easter. Peter Evans has produced draft accounts which are included in this report. They show a surplus of £2050 when comparing receipts with payments. Cafe Bonnies continues to do well despite having to cancel March's because of snow. Both rooms have been well used throughout the year. There have been some additional items of expenditure including the dishwasher, decorating and completion of car park which mean that the amount in the bank has reduced but is still healthy. The bank balance also includes the remainder of the defibrillator money.

As always, Committee members have spent time and energy on Latchen Room matters. Thanks are due to all of them, Pete Histed, vice chair, Peter Evans, treasurer, Roger Noblett as secretary and for working on and coordinating so many of the improvements that have happened in the last year and Steve Palmer and Steve Collins for their support. Mo Cameron in particular is pivotal as she acts as the voice of Latchen Room, taking bookings and organising keys. We miss her and wish her well as she continues to recover from her surgery. Every member plays a part in the smooth running of Latchen Room and making it a village hall that receives favourable comments from locals and visitors.

Margaret Willis, Chair

16thApril 2018