

Latchen Room Management Committee Report 2019-2020

This has been another busy year for the Management Committee with regular meetings and other communications when needed. Des Halliday was welcomed back to the Committee as a representative of the Longhope Community Workshop. There are still regular users that do not have a representative on the Committee although invited

This has been a financially stable year for Latchen Room with 10 regular weekly bookings and 5 monthly meetings on average. There have been regular children and adult parties and various other events which mean that the hall is always in demand and used by all age groups. The staging has been regularly requested and the Committee made the decision to charge £10 for bringing the pieces up from downstairs, building it and later dismantling it, which everyone is quite happy to pay. The high stage pieces were used in church for the Pantomime which was a great success. After several events that have been troublesome to the management committee and neighbours, reluctantly it has been decided not to take bookings for teenage parties in future.

The Longhope Community workshop has continued to flourish downstairs and the wooden items members made for sale at Christmas were in great demand. They have undertaken minor repairs for the community and have also been doing small maintenance and decorating jobs in Latchen Room. They clean the downstairs room and outside area when needed. The Latchen Room Committee has supported the Community Workshop financially with a loan. The aim is to increase marketing to encourage more interest.

As usual, a programme of repairs has been undertaken:-

- A dado rail has been fitted in the Kerslake Room
- Ingress of water causing dampness round the door has been solved with a canopy over the door
- PAT testing has been completed
- The main hall lights have been cleaned
- A frost stat has been replaced in the Ladies toilets
- Electric testing and certification has been completed
- There have been problems with the heating system with 2 small leaks in pipework as well as the boiler locking out. The faults have been difficult to track down but replacement parts will be fitted soon

Other improvements planned are the installation of CCTV and changing the wall mounted heaters to radiators downstairs.

The beginning of the year saw a large volume of rainfall and partly due to Gigaclear digging up the pavement outside Latchen Room, flooding occurred in the car park. Thankfully, the water gradually soaked away without any damage to the building. During this time, carers from Brook Lodge were in touch with a view to evacuating residents if the brook broke its banks and flooded their building as it had in the past. In the end this didn't happen either but there were a few worrying hours.

Accounts

There has been a difficult end to the year with the Corona virus pandemic which effectively meant the closure of Latchen Room for the last 2 weeks of March onwards. As a result, some rental income has not been received for the quarter ending March 2020 and several events had to be cancelled. Despite the small Management deficit, Latchen Room has a healthy bank balance to end the year. A copy of the accounts is attached.

Members of the Management Committee volunteer their time to keep Latchen Room in good condition and make it a place that people want to rent and enjoy coming to. My thanks go to all of them, Roger Noblett, Peter Evans, Pete Histed, Des Halliday, Steve Palmer and Maureen Cameron. Also a big thank you to Les Meadows for all the cleaning he does.

Margaret Willis, Chair, Latchen Room Management Committee

17th April 2020

Since writing this report, it was with great sadness that the Committee heard of the death of Maureen Cameron on May 2nd. She was a valued member of the Management Committee for nearly 50 years and was responsible for bookings for 40. She was instrumental in the fund raising undertaken for the refurbishment and we will all miss her input, enthusiasm and generosity.