

CLAYDON AND BARHAM VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2016 until 24 March 2017

By far the biggest event in our past 'Village Hall Year' has been the new kitchen. A stunning transformation of the original space that has brought the 'average age' of the building's fixtures and fittings down to single figures (probably). Spurred on by generous grants from our councils, a crack fitting team turned the dusty ruins of the old units into a sparkling new layout that would prompt admiring glances in the demonstration area of any B&Q store. A major triumph completed in seven days in the middle of August. Everything else in our catalogue of 'things done' pales into insignificance by comparison. And that included fitting the latest combi-boiler to keep our hall warm and (for the first time) provide hot water to two taps in the kitchen. Stop Press on the kitchen: two more magnetic locks will be fitted soon on the cupboards to provide regular users security for their contents.

Right, got that off my chest. Now back to a whizz-through of other goings on during the period.

In June we welcomed Janet Clarke as our new Treasurer, taking over from Alex Jolly, who occupied the chair for a brief period. Janet has been an asset to our committee and continues to fulfil the role admirably.

Just after the kitchen was finished a proper 'welcome mat' was fitted in a well near the front door: a great improvement. Subsequently, a concrete wheelchair-suitable ramp was completed outside the emergency exit door from the toy store onto Back Lane. And exploratory holes have been made into the chimney space in the computer committee room to fit a ventilation system for the room.

After the usual quite summer period, things started to hot up again as Bar-Clay Music Makers began their weekly rehearsals in September for the annual panto. And we had more bookings for children's parties to augment the income from our regular users. As the year turned into 2017, the panto attracted good audiences during the last two weekends of January. The staging was a little different from the usual style, with the black curtain set funded by the Village Hall providing a striking background to scenery flats wafting across the stage on trolleys – just like the London theatres do!

At our committee meeting on 21 February, Michelle Smith presented her latest draft version of the Constitution and Governance document for the

village hall. Michelle has worked hard on this and we hope to wrestle a final version into shape soon.

We have lost CDC Streetdance as a regular hirer on Monday evenings, but I have just received an enquiry about an exercise class that may provide a replacement long-term booking. Here's hoping.

Our next major expenditure will be for the electrical survey plus the fitting of a new bigger distribution board so we can supply more power lines to the toilets and thus enable us fit the electric hand dryers we have had in stock for some time. This work may coincide with the UK Power Networks works along the street that will bring the power lines down from the telegraph poles into underground 'tunnels'.

That's about it. The hall is in good hands and the roof doesn't leak (fingers crossed!).

Geoff Rogers

Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee, 24 March 2017

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