

## **Chair's Report for 2018 AGM:**

Hello everyone – a small but enthusiastic band! Apologies received from one or two village folk who need to be elsewhere this evening, and we have had apology from Trustee Karen Groom who is busy with Parish Business elsewhere, although she has expressed a willingness to continue as a Trustee if this meeting so wishes – so many thanks to her. Also – many thanks are expressed in her absence to Anne Eastwood – now living in Vietnam with her family; she had been a thoroughly generous, spirited Trustee and a good friend to the Hub – and to me! I did send a full note of thanks to Anne – as well as giving one of our Heritage Books to previous Trustee Richard Wade as a token of thanks for his contribution as a Trustee prior to his moving to Marsworth. Mentioning the Heritage Book – it has proved a great success, and we have well covered our costs; it has proved very popular, and we are continuing to receive orders from this Community and elsewhere!

### **So – to this brief report for the past year of Hub Activities!**

**In October of 2017**, at the first Trustees Meeting after the September AGM, we reported that we had had a very successful 'Trustees and Café Staff' Barbecue and that we would hold another in twelve months. At that informal gathering, it had been agreed that CuriosiTEA Rooms would run the Christmas Market as a 'CuriosiTEA' Project, which proved to be a success – but more of that later. We had concluded our 'Trustees Sustainability' Exercise – I responded to Sara Greenwood, thanking her for her time in leading the exercise, and Bob set about preparing the 'Tasks Schedule' which was to form the basis of the ongoing sustainability programme. Also – Bob was asked to put in hand the proposed new Building Plaque with the Community Hub insignia, to replace the existing 'Village Centre' plaque – this remains an outstanding project since we experienced a financial problem mid-year, and it was decided to put this back as a non-essential expense. Gardening, Maintenance continued - £42 spent on new plants – these planted in November!

**November 2017** saw small additional expenditure (approx. £20) on planting and compost, and the proposed replacement of one the heaters in the Community Café at a cost of just over £1,700 – essential as it turned out for the coming cold winter weather! We hosted the British Legion Poppy Day display in the Entrance Cloakroom. Also, we worked with CuriosiTEA Rooms towards the Christmas Market, which was a great success on 1<sup>st</sup> December – one of the highlights being the Petting Zoo at the rear of the Hub – and Anne Eastwood's Christmas Hamper raffle proving financially lucrative for the Hub (with our own other activities, raising around £260). Carol Singing from the Beacon Choir and Brookmead School gave a great atmosphere to the evening. Also – we arranged for 'BT Infinity' to be installed as our previous internet connection was proving too slow; thankfully, in negotiation with BT, they acknowledged our 'Registered Charity' status and adjusted our VAT element so that cost of running the upgraded internet connection was cheaper than the previous set-up! An interesting 'Dowsing' (Water Divining) Course was held by a hirer.

**December 2017**, after the Christmas Market, of course led up to family and community Christmas festivities – we ran the 'Name the Turkey' game in the Community Café which made a few pounds, and the Simply Walks group held their Christmas Lunch in the space here! Also of course, at this time of year, there is always a reduction in hirings – folk have time off, often the regular hirers take time away to coincide with School Holidays, etc. We did have installed the 'through the wall' ventilation extract system above the cooker hob in the kitchen, as requested by a visiting Hygiene Official – the Builder Paul installed it!

**January 2018** – the last days of Christmas - heralded the second Trustee Meeting since the AGM, and we welcomed Graham White of Bucks County Council to discuss how we were to spend the £4,000 Heart of Bucks Grant – if you remember we were encouraged to apply for this Grant on the basis of Bucks County Council giving support in forming a weekly group to provide gentle exercise, a lunch club, and a social hour after. In the event, Graham White acknowledged that Bucks CC had

not come up with the promised support, and would welcome suggestions as to how we move forward. We had already spent almost £1,000 for the Electrically Operated Projection Screen with controls (erected by Bob with generous help from local builder Fred Maydom), and thus we needed to arrange something for the expenditure of the £3,000 balance. In discussion, it was agreed that we arrange a 'gentle exercise' group – and run it until the funds run out. There did develop a brief discussion about the proposed lunch club – someone called Lew Monger from Community Impact Bucks came along and made supportive noises, but gave no practical help! The Sustainability Exercise was carried forward – Bob had completed the Task Schedule, and I was preparing Task Cards – Policy Documents were to be issued to Trustees for updating and comment. Cash in hand in January was £12,310.37 – Claire submitting this information to the Charity Commission. All Trustees had supported the proposal that we should form the basis of a new 'Fruit and Veg Show Committee' since the previous Show Committee had resigned – myself, Claire, Karen and Bob attending a meeting in the pub to meet with other interested folk. The Show date was set for 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018, advertising material and schedules were put in hand.

**February 2018** was when we had discussions with CuriosiTEA around the recently installed decorative 'boxes' which they had installed to cover the Gas Heaters in the Café – on the annual maintenance inspection, the Gas Engineer had suggested that the decorative boxes should be removed as they prevent correct ventilation, as well as prevent efficient heating. Initially, the Café staff moved the boxes away from the wall to allow adequate ventilation – eventually removing them altogether as the weather was cold! Sadly, Anne Eastwood announced her resignation, since her family commitments in Vietnam now required her to be resident there – we sent a card and letter of thanks for her generous help as a Trustee.

**March 2018** saw the progressing of the Sustainability Exercise by the issue of existing Policy Documents (Health and Safety, Vulnerable Children and Adults, Fire Safety, Employment, Equality, etc.), although the non-response from Trustees has highlighted the sustainability problem – we are all just too busy as a group! In the background, we were negotiating with one or two different folk who might run the 'Gentle Exercise' Group, subject of the Heart of Bucks Grant. CuriosiTEA Café ran an Easter Activity Day on Good Friday, which was evidently very successful – I am afraid that I was in India, thus unable to be here!

**April 2018** heralded the third Trustee Meeting since the 2017 AGM, and we finally agreed on our strategy for the Gentle Exercise Group; Andrea Hall had agreed to run the Group, and provide any necessary equipment, music, etc., at a cost of £60 per hour (this generally being marginally less than the sort of sum charged by bought-in specialists), and we as Trustees would charge the Group £12 per hour for space hire. We ordered two new folding tables – although an old one had been broken by an unknown hirer - to replace the existing fixed leg tables, to allow more floor space for exercise. We also agreed to purchase a small Boiling Water Urn and two Tea Pots to assist with hirers who wished to use the facility for self-catering. Claire reported that we had £8,568.56p at the Bank, with Cash in Hand (at 24th March 2018) of £640.10p - noting that monies taken for March 2018 and April 2018 hirings, etc., were yet to be included. Claire noted that certain monies owing to us – around £4,000 – should be taken into account, and that steps would need to be taken to retrieve those monies just as soon as possible.

**May 2018** - the beginning of the 'Gentle Exercise' Group finally! Apparently a pleasantly enjoyable Group, although I have personally not joined it! Additional keys were cut for the Rear Sheds, and for the 'Grey' Door at the rear of the Community Space – keys to be kept with the other spare keys – although noting the need for Hub Security in the event that any of these keys are lost or mislaid. We agreed that a potential date for a further meeting on the Sustainability Exercise could be end of May or early June 2018, but preferably after any new Trustee is in place! The need to recruit new Trustees was reinforced by Claire – all aspects of this remain of the highest priority, and I continue voicing our need in articles in the Beacon, the PPP and the Parish Magazine.

**June 2018** saw the Fifth Birthday of CuriosiTEA Rooms Café – this was celebrated warmly with activities on the lawn. The Sustainability Exercise is still not progressing – we Trustees agreeing that we need to have new Trustees in place before continuing with this. Our rear Garden is looking lovely!

**July 2018** was the beginning of the traditional six or eight week quiet period for Hub Bookings – we continue to host the very successful and long running Crochet Club – the Bridge Club, Simply Walks, the gentle Exercise Club and the Parish Council – Natural Pilates and the lively Music Class, and Simply Singing. We were given a fridge!

**August 2018** gave us the Old Scholars' Reunion – by now a traditional warm event, hosted this year successfully by Trustees Sylvia and Margaret – and Butch Baker of the Barron Knights (and one time Cub Scout here at the Old School) gave an interesting talk of his experiences in Rock Music. Worthy of mention also is the fact that some of the costs were borne by the Cloakroom Second Hand Book scheme – also run by Sylvia and Margaret – for which many thanks! Also we held the Trustees and Café Staff Barbecue, which – although poorly attended – was a lovely evening for those few who did attend.

**In September 2018** the really very successful, and very well received, Flower and Vegetable Show was held here – with Children's entries being displayed in the Scout Hut. Trustees Karen, Bob, Claire and myself had joined with allotmenters John Lowe, Julie Wills and Simone Leboff in forming the organising group. A lovely, warm, traditional village event! Bookings for Community Space were happily back up to around £600 for the month, including now Guides every week, a meeting held by the Tring and District Model Railway Society, and an interesting Medical Writers' Group! An exciting enquiry received from the television programme 'Endeavour' for use as a TV backdrop – although no progress on this as yet!

So – Many thanks to fellow Trustees in continuing to provide this Community Space and Service - Something for everyone. We are open to suggestions, and keen on new volunteers. Keep yourself in the loop and follow us on social media and by just joining in. Our cloakroom regularly groans with additional posters and fliers for everything happening locally and free books, and unsolicited gifts to the Hub fill it up!

Forward planning must include recruiting additional Trustees and a call-out for volunteers on some more fun shared tasks like washing and re-varnishing the Hub Hall floors. Then trawl for volunteer trustees within this group? I suggest we get on with the new Building Plaque finally to have erected by our Hub Opening 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

**New initiatives might include:**

Saturday Sales: Table-top sales on one or more Saturdays a month will bring people into the Hub and Café throughout the year, out of casual weekend interest.

Seasonal Markets would perhaps double-up on the two already established - renaming our pre-Christmas Market and Easter Market to 'Wintry' and 'Springy' will separate it from the Church's more religious event – thus, Springy, Summery, Autumnal and Wintery Markets.

Springy Market – Easter Egg Hunt, Petting Zoo, Pastel Coloured Bunting and Eggs, Young Plants and Baby Animal Context.

Summery Market held around Café's Birthday in June and accented on picnicking and open air fun.

Autumnal Market would accent on harvesting of produce, seed swapping, Flower and Vegetable Show activity, and local Morris Band appearance if possible.

Wintery Markets would be held around our Hub opening anniversary season and celebrate the Community's help.

**For this Community, and by this Community! Many Thanks!**

**Carol Tarrant, Chair of Trustees, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

## Treasurer's Report IOSCH

25th September 2018

### Current Financial Situation

<b>Bank account as at 15.10 24/09/2018</b>	<b>8,632.60</b>
Cash in hand                      Christmas Market (with Claire)*	229.40
Outstanding invoices      (monies due to OSCH)	5875.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,737.91</b>

**\*Any September 2018 cash and cheques not included in cash in hand.**

### Last Quarter Check on Outstanding Invoices

Ongoing.

### Heart of Bucks Grant

Value of Grant 4000.00

#### Expenditure to date

Projection Screen:	3rd August 2016	680.40
Fixing Materials:	17th August 2016	19.07
Electrical Cable:	24th August 2016	8.53
Black-Out Blinds:	1st August 2017	233.85
Hooks/Wires for lights	31st August 2017	3.79
Community Exercise Classes	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	240.00
Community Exercise Classes	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	240.00
Replacement Tables	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2018	223.20
Room Hire Exercise Class	May 2018 4 sessions	48.00
Room Hire Exercise Class	June 2018 4 sessions	48.00
Room Hire Exercise Class	July 2018 3 sessions	36.00

**Total Expenditure 1780.84**

**Outstanding Grant 2219.16**

Treasurer will re-issue this report when there are further items to add to Heart of Bucks grant expenditure