

Alderholt Village Hall AGM – 23 October 2019
Bookings Officer Report

Hire of the hall has been ticking along nicely, there was a dip in bookings at the beginning of the summer, but things have picked up considerably now, so I am hoping that this trend will continue. After all, we have a lovely, well equipped hall, available at reasonable rates in the heart of our village!

We have a good core group of about 13 regular user groups, offering a range of activities, and are generally well attended throughout the year. Activities range from the annual panto, various social clubs, fitness, art and, of course, the fortnightly bingo, and monthly village market! We really appreciate the financial stability that these regular groups give us, and the range of things to do for local people.

There have been a few changes in our regulars this year, including the toddler group, Supertots move to the school site. We were sad to see them go, but wish them all the best into the future, and recognise that this is a national trend. We were also joined and said goodbye to the local cubs and scouts troupes, who lost their meeting place with relatively short notice, but have been offered regular space at the school.

We have had a wide range of one off bookings this year – over 60 in total, ranging from family parties and celebrations, including a beautiful wedding reception, an early morning bootcamp, sales, bazaars, quiz and competition nights, discos, workshops, various ‘political’ events, including the local MP surgeries, elections and parish consultations. I think this is a reflection of the quality and flexibility of our hall, and how well equipped we are, as well as offering reasonable hire rates.

We have revised our Conditions of Hire this year, and hope that we have all bases covered, but appreciate that the vast majority of users respect the hall, and other users, and we have had very few problems, none of which that haven’t been very easily dealt with. We have also reviewed our hire rates and have found that we compare well with other local halls. We have not increased our rates for a number of years, so will keep an eye on our running costs against our income, but fully intend to ensure that local people have an attractive and economic place in which to meet.

We publicise events at the hall via the website, our Facebook and Alderholt Facebook pages and through the Parish Magazine, along with information about how to hire the hall.

I’d like to thank the Core Committee who work tirelessly to maintain and develop our hall, which I believe is a wonderful community resource, and to all of those people who use it for so many different things, and help us to look after it for the future. Finally, I’d like to thank everyone for their patience with me and the booking process, particularly this summer, which has been a little challenging!!

Mandy