

## Otterhampton Village Hall Committee - Report from Chair 2018

Thank you for attending this AGM. The Village Hall continued to be well used over the last 12 months by a variety of local groups for the benefit of the residents of Otterhampton. These include:

- Aerobics/Pilates
- Art Club
- Comwich Brownies
- Cannington Surgery
- Craft Group
- Friday Morning Coffee Club
- Harbour View Social Club including darts and skittles clubs
- Harbour view Players
- Short Mat Bowls
- Monthly Market
- OPRA
- Parish Council
- and private bookings

The Committee have continued with the day to day maintenance and running of the hall with no major work required in the last year.

Following consultations in previous years with users of the hall the Committee is very much aware of the improvements needed to make the hall a more accessible and attractive village commodity. EDF funding finally became available at the end of 2017 and the Committee submitted an 'expression of interest' to the Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT) early this year for funding to carry out the much needed refurbishment of the whole hall. This will be a very expensive project and the OPPT Committee will require solid evidence that local residents support the use of the Community Impact Mitigation fund for the hall. To help support our bid we managed to secure funding of £10k from the Big Lottery. Part of this money will be used for the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) to undertake an independent survey of all Otterhampton residents asking for their views about the hall and what is wanted: this survey will be coming through your door very soon so please keep an eye out for it and return it to ensure we can put a good case to OPPT for the funding. The CCS report will underpin our bids to EDF and any other organisations for match funding.

The Big Lottery funding will also cover the costs for professional evaluation of the building ready for changes which will improve every area of the hall from double glazing, solar heating, a lift and disability access to redecorating and new furniture throughout.

A separate Nat West Account has been opened specifically for funding income and payments relating to the forthcoming refurbishment: this allows the current account dealing with the running cost for the hall to be totally independent. The account will be administered by Patricia Priest (who is not an account signatory) and every transaction will require 2 signatories. It is

expected that this account will be audited by a qualified accountant due to the possible large sums of money involved.

So some exciting times ahead for the Committee. We will keep everyone informed.

Sue Barton

Chair, Otterhampton Village Hall Committee

9<sup>th</sup> May 2018