

Annual report for Wortwell Community Centre (The Wortwell CORE)
Year ending 31st March 2019
Registered Charity No. 1025885

It has been another challenging year for the Trustees but we have ended the year in a much healthier position than we started. The challenge, as always, was to keep the Centre open for the purpose of supporting the community, providing sports, leisure and other facilities, whilst at the same time bringing the facilities we offer into the 21st century against a backdrop of apathy and sometimes even hostility from some members of the community.

We took the decision to form an Events Committee, partly made up of existing trustees and partly made up of new-comers. Chaired by Mags Colyer, the committee has shown enthusiasm and dedication in their quest to get the Centre used more and they have succeeded in this, albeit with some disappointments along the way. They have organised a number of events including quizzes, car boot-sales, a ceilidh, a “Nod to Burns” night and a Bake-Off. They have taken a huge amount of pressure off the other Trustees leaving us free to manage the Centre itself. Huge thanks go to them all and I wish them continued success in the coming year.

After twenty six years running the bar, Jack Reeve announced that he planned to call it a day at the end of the year. We had been expecting this for some time and set about finding a suitable person to take over. We advertised the position and ended up with a shortlist of 3 who we invited to interview. Liz Shore from The Bell was appointed and immediately set about up-dating the bar and improving the stock. We agreed that 60% of the profits would be paid to us and now at last we are being provided with a breakdown of the costs and profits and can work out just how profitable the bar is. We have already received some useful funds from this source. Sadly Liz will be moving out of the village later this year so we will have to find someone else to take over.

During the course of the year we have managed to get our Broadband up and running in the Centre and finally got on top of proper web-site and Facebook pages both of which are now kept up to date.

The heating system in the Centre had been a concern for some considerable time. The gas heater in the Waveney Room was condemned last year and although we had temporarily installed electric heaters, these were not really sufficient. This year both the heaters in the Conference Room were also condemned. Furthermore, the boiler was over 25 years old. Unknown to the Committee we also discovered that the Centre had a separate large water heater just for washing up, the showers no longer being used. Clearly the whole system was in need of replacement and up-dating. An application to South Norfolk District Council for a grant towards the cost was submitted and refused so Wortwell Parish Council stepped in with a grant making it

possible for us to have a new combi-boiler installed together with new heaters in the Waveney and Conference rooms. Furthermore the old water heater has been de-commissioned. This work would not have been possible without considerable assistance from the Parish Council and we are extremely grateful for their help.

It became clear that the floor in the Conference Room was no longer fit for purpose and we took the decision to have it refurbished. This work was undertaken over the Christmas period to minimise disruption. The floor is now in much better condition and should be good for a few more years.

Continuing the programme of up-dating the Centre we have taken the decision to purchase new hand dryers in the main toilets as the current dryers are old and inefficient. Indeed one of the dryers in the gents toilets has had to be taken out of commission altogether having become dangerous. We have also decided to purchase a new cooker/oven in the main kitchen. The pilot light on the old oven is difficult to light meaning every time it is used one of the trustees has to go up and light it. We are anxious to alleviate the need for someone to be in attendance to hand the building over each time it is used for a party or function.

We have also purchased a printer and laminator for the use of committee members when on Community Centre business.

Turning to the financials, I reported last year that the Centre was in a precarious situation. I am now pleased to report a much improved state of affairs. A programme of cost reduction has been undertaken by the treasurer with the assistance of other trustees. Club and bar takings are now banked as and when received and increases in charges, improved bar profits and the work of the Events Committee means we should now be able to face the future with greater confidence. A copy of the Treasurers Report is attached.

Finally, I wish to thank the Trustees for all their continued hard work, together with the members of the Events Committee who have worked with tremendous enthusiasm since the foundation of the Committee, bringing a new dimension to the Centre's activities. In particular I would like to thank Sheila Rusted our hard working and unpaid bookings clerk, Mick Fisher who saves us so much money keeping the building up and running, visiting nearly every day to keep an eye on things and Lua Leggett, our cleaner and treasurer who as well as keeping the Centre clean has put in many hours of work getting the accounts back in order and then keeping them there! We would not be able to keep this valuable facility open without the efforts of you all. We hope to get some new blood onto the management committee in the near future.