

Blockley Little Village Hall

The Elisha Smith Institute – registered charity number 1042374

Bell Bank, Blockley GL56 9BB

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustees:

Caroline Bond

James Henderson

Oliver Lincoln (Secretary)

Susan Salmon (Chairman)

Brenda Samuels

John Seddon (resigned 18/06/2023)

Shirley Seddon (resigned 18/06/2023)

Amy Thompson (joined 31/07/2023)

Sue Wareham (resigned 24/04/2023)

Brenda Williams

Robert Willott (resigned 30/10/2023)

Activities and achievements in the year

In the last 12 months the combination of our website and Facebook Page have started to generate more interest in the Hall and hence a more diverse range of bookings. In particular, the Hall has attracted a number of extended bookings for Family parties, Art/Photography Exhibitions and small company meetings. These have made a significant impact on income. In addition to previous regular users such as the Blockley Ladies Choir, Blockley Art Group, Cakes & Company the Hall has been used for meetings by Blockley Church, Blockley Women Connect and Blockley Blokes Choir. Souper Mondays, funded by Blockley Parish Council, returned this year with 8 winter bookings providing hot soup and a warm space for local people to get together and socialise. A monthly Thai pop-up has been well supported by local people. These events provide an opportunity to showcase the hall to a wider audience and for people to socialise in a friendly setting. The Trustees are very grateful to the BBC who converted the Hall into a hospital ward to film an episode of Father Brown. This booking had a significant impact on Hall income for this year.

The need for major work on the large architectural windows in the main Hall, in order to bring them back into pristine condition, has been identified. The Trustees consider this to be a priority for the near future and are looking at options for refurbishment.

Energy and general operating costs (particularly Fire prevention services) have increased over the year and the Trustees continue to monitor expenditure carefully to control their impact on the business. As a result of increasing costs, hall hire costs are reviewed by Trustees every January. No further increase was agreed in January 2024 following the 25% increase last year.

We are grateful to Gigaclear for continuing to provide free business broadband at the Hall. This has been used by a number of Community Groups in support of their activities such as Blockley Parish Council, Blockley Church Group, Cakes & Company. We have not yet been able to secure any full business lettings for the Elisha Smith Suite but continue to promote this to all enquirers and through local promotion.

Finances

INSERT TEXT FROM OLLIE LINCOLN

As a small charity, our accounts are not subject to audit.

Personnel and changes in Trustees

Meriel Swain took over as our Custodian at the end of May. She has proved to be a very valuable asset to the Hall creating a Facebook page which is linked to several local Facebook Noticeboards. She also streamlined our booking enquiry and invoicing procedures and was proactive in obtaining reviews from Hall users. These actions undoubtedly contributed to increased online interest in the Hall and we thank Meriel for her input.

On 31st July we appointed a new cleaner, Charlotte Boxall. She cleans the Hall on a weekly basis and is reports back on concerns and possible improvements.

During the year Sue Wareham (Blockley Ladies Choir) resigned to be replaced by Amy Thompson. John & Shirley Seddon (co-opted Trustees) moved away from the area. Rob Willott (past Chairman and Trustee) resigned after several years of stalwart service. We thank them all for giving up their time to help secure the future of Blockley Little Village Hall.

Our Trustees have continued to support and maintain Blockley Little Village Hall as a heritage asset within the village. Thank you to them all.

Sue Salmon

4th July 2024