

The Badlesmere Lees and Hall Committee



Badlesmere....on the way to Ashford 1927

Chairman's Report for the AGM of The Badlesmere Lees and Hall Committee, 12 May 2020.

The AGM scheduled for 12 May 2020 was cancelled in keeping with the lock down regulations put in place by the government in response to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The following is the report which the chairman would have given to the meeting had it taken place. Appended is a summary of the (still-joined) accounts of the Badlesmere Parish Hall and the Badlesmere Preservation Committee. Please note that the report covers the period from May 2019 to May 2020 but the accounts are for the calendar year 2019. The accounts have not yet been independently checked (another consequence of the pandemic).

This year's committee were:- Ian Earl, chairman and acting Hall Manager, Sue Earl, secretary, Rick Blackman, treasurer, and members: Dave Austin (Parish Councillor), Katie Bennett, Steve Burt, Fred Gregory, Charlie Kirby, Ben Pullen and Tom Sisley. In addition, Lorraine Blackman ran the 100 Club.

Since the last AGM little has changed in matters pertaining to governance, such as acquiring custodian trustees or separating the accounts into 'Village Hall' and 'The Lees'. The writing of key policies has yet to be started but the requirement for them is acknowledged. The big 'event' of the year is undoubtedly the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic. The government's lock down of the country stopped all hiring of community halls in Mar 2020, but for us this allowed the long-awaited renovations – repairs to the timber frame of the hall and the painting of the roof and external walls – to go ahead without interfering with any hirings. The costs from this and the loss of income due to the pandemic will appear in the accounts for 2020.

Prior to the lock down, the hall had still its regular users (although the Yoga sessions did stop) and associated income, and the lees and tracks were still being maintained, financially supported by the 100 Club. The hall cleaner continued her tasks with monthly visits, and the lees was mowed, whenever considered necessary, by a local contractor. The grass is recovering remarkably well from the late first cut and subsequent dry spell in 2018 (see last year's report). Other income came from the annual Wine and Wisdom, ably arranged, as always, and presented by Fred Gregory, and the inaugural Badlesmere 10k Run, which managed a profit of over £1700, this success down to the considerable efforts of Steve Burt, aided by Rick Blackman and Ian Earl, and the many others at the race HQ and around the course on the day. It was particularly pleasing to hear that the runners were very appreciative of the way the event

was organised and the welcome they got from villagers. Please note that £562 was spent in the expectation of there being a second 10k Run.

In addition to the major work on the building, mentioned above, very necessary electrical work has also been carried out, with the controls of the hall's heaters (in the kitchen) and the Emergency Lights (throughout) being replaced. The drainage system for the hall's guttering is now in need of repair and will be a cost to be borne next year.

To prevent further damage from lorries turning at the 'triangle' (entrance to the North Track) and unnecessary journeys being made along the track, a metal bollard has been erected at the triangle and a 'Private Road' sign positioned at the start of the track. A 'No Parking beyond this point' sign has also been placed by the village hall.

This year, new Booking Conditions were written and came into force in January. The hourly rate was increased to £8 for occasional users (still less than other local halls) but kept at £7.50 for regular users. However, the use of the kitchen hobs/ovens was removed from these rates; to access these the rate is now £12 per hour.

If the coronavirus prevents hiring of the hall until August our loss of income will be about £1000. Its effects may well continue beyond this and could result in the cancelling of fund-raising events such as the second 10k Run and the annual Wine and Wisdom. There may well be extra costs incurred in getting the hall suitable for when it is allowed to reopen. However, we believe our reserves are sufficiently large to survive this current crisis, and the committee looks forward to a time when all is back to normal.

Ian Earl
Chairman, Badlesmere Lees and Hall Committee