

Acting Chairman's Report - Lawson Hut AGM 2019

Thanks are due to all our users over the past 12 months; the consistent usage of the facility by the community is the reason the Hut remains at the heart of village life and the current committee are ambitious to ensure that the venue remains in tip top condition, improvements being made as and when finances and manpower permit.

The whole question of village facilities and potential rationalisation is a key part of the Village Plan committee's remit and we are committed to engage thoughtfully with our Village Plan friends so that an appropriate direction can be followed whether or not this involves the Hut going forward.

Whilst our ambition remains to recruit new blood to the committee the current membership deserve thanks for their commitment and contribution over the past 12 months. Bookings are at an all time high and particular thanks should be directed to Sue Matthews who manages this challenging responsibility with commercialism and flexibility. The Hut is on a sound financial footing and we are grateful to Badsworth Parish Council for their continued support and the financial assistance given to complete the year's most pressing task –the replacement of the Fire Exit ramp. On this subject, we are indebted to Geoff Hames for sourcing the local contractors and coordinating the project; once again Geoff has taken full responsibility for lawn-cutting and grounds maintenance. Thank you Geoff for a tremendous contribution.

Our efforts to formally recruit a cohort of "Friends of the Lawson Hut" has proved unsuccessful but as ever, we are grateful for the contribution made by Tania and Bob Pemberton, Margaret Robertson and David Cheetham-thanks to all for your continued support. Kerry Rimmington is always willingly on standby to help out especially if work involved is of a construction nature or if it requires a head for heights-thank you!!

It would be remiss of me not to mention and sincerely thank our one employee-Sharon who yet again has maintained the Hut in sparkling condition for the benefit of all users.

Sadly the 78 Club folded recently and the LHC was very grateful to the 78 Club committee for the generous donation to the Lawson Hut from the 78 Club's residual funds.

As previously mentioned, the Hut hosts a great variety of individuals, groups, the Village Plan committee and the Parish Council ; we are very pleased to record that Wakefield Council still regards us as the "go to" polling station venue for Badsworth enabling the school to remain open during elections.

Usage of the projector, following the Computer Club's generous donation, has increased exponentially with the film club administered by Barrie Slinger and Andy Betteridge (AndBar) proving a popular Friday night attraction roughly once a month. Barry Shakespeare's musical montage of Badsworth Old and New followed by The Greatest Showman was a popular event and we (Shaky Duck) hope to occasionally show films of a musical nature to complement AndBar's rolling programme. Pleasingly donations and profit from sale of ice creams ensure that film-goers are covering the cost of hire of the venue but more importantly the cost of the film licence which is almost £200 per annum.

Once again, we can conclude that the Hut is a high quality venue which represents excellent value for money hence it is exceptionally well-used and I am confident that this will remain the case for the foreseeable future.

Steve Duckett