

TUNBURY HALL ANNUAL REPORT FOR APC

It is with extreme pleasure that I write about yet another successful year at Tunbury Hall. All of the users have had a very busy year and their members have gained from the activities that they have pursued.

Fred, our valued caretaker, has ensured that the Hall is well up to the standard expected and that we are now following a pro-active schedule of repairs and maintenance so that the THC do not have any major expensive repairs unbeknown to them. During this year we have seen a change in our Treasurer. We must thank our out-going Treasurer, Andy Burnham-Jones who has undertaken this role for many years and kept us not only afloat but in solid financial state. However, as with all organisations of similar age, items will need replacing and it is some regret that the Committee have only just agreed to small increases in our hire rates (which are still very competitive with other local venues) so that these matters can be undertaken in due course. We are always a local community hall and we never forget that in our charging policy. We are sure that our new Treasurer, Cllr Tom Shelley will both continue Andy`s good work and steer us on a sound financial course in the future.

Here follows the reports of our various groups that use Tunbury Hall. Cllr Malcolm Wright (Chairman) THC

BLUEBELL SCHOOL OF DANCE

In 2016 our show `Life` was very successful raising £700 from a raffle and donations for Demelza House. (We have now raised over £44,000 for Childrens charities). We took part in 4 dance festivals winning many medals and cups. In July there was a summer showcase and in November a choreographic competition at Tunbury Hall raising £500 profit going towards costumes for the next production.

Four sets of examinations have been held at Tunbury Hall with 100% pass rate and many distinctions. Examiners report of the high standards of the Hall.

In March there was a Gala Performance `4Zero` to celebrate 40 years of Bluebell School which took place at the Brook Theatre in Chatham supporting Demelza House. Other events have been held to mark this celebration throughout the year.

As always our former students are completing courses at Colleges of Dance and also becoming teachers and who return to the school to help out with our teaching, a testament to their loyalty and love for the school.

6th WALDESLADE BROWNIES

Lots of fun this year including badges for being: an artist, speaker, first aider, air hostess, collectors and pack holiday.

Our weekly activities included Chinese New Year, anti-bullying, Easter & Christmas crafts, Roald Dahl evening and a Silly Olympics night. Outings included a trip to the village pantomime, a fish & chip night at Guideland and a visit to Fun Drum. We had a `spring clean` for the Queen and a royal themed evening making cards for the Queen to which we had a reply!

We had a Mad Hatters Tea Party at Easter with the Rainbows and a Thinking Day celebrating the birth of our founders.

The older Brownies enjoyed a weekend Pack holiday to Paxwood where they had to make their own beds, prepare their meals and wash up afterwards. We had a Tombola stall at Tunbury School Fete raising funds for our activities. We have held a `Great Brownie Bake off` where Mary Berry & Paul Hollywood lookalikes attended. The Gnomes were awarded the prize for the best cookies.

Finally we had to say goodbye to one of our long-standing helpers Teresa (Little Owl).

TUNBURY RAINBOWS

Lots of activities undertaken including: Themed Evenings Chinese New Year, All about Me, Recycling, Father`s Day, Keep Fit, Disney, Nighttime Creatures & Mini Beasts.

We have made pancakes, Valentine`s Cards, fruit lollies, pizzas and an Easter Garden.

We enjoyed an outing to Godstone Farm at Easter and to Fun Drum. We also celebrate the `Royal Events of 2016`. With the Brownies we followed a Founders day & a visit to the village pantomime and Fish & Chips at Guidelands in Cossington Road, Walderslade.

KUMON CLASSES

Unfortunately Kumon have now left Tunbury Hall but their slot has been taken up by other hirers. Whilst there during the year and in their 14 years at Tunbury Hall many students had received help with their skills in Maths and English building self-confidence and self-belief. They have truly challenged themselves through advanced study.

MODEL RACING GROUP

We have been using Tunbury Hall since 1992. We have a steady membership with a large range of choices in models for their members. We hope to use the Hall for the foreseeable future.

SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

We are now in our 25th year. We have 2 teams in the top division of the Maidstone & District League. Our `B` team won promotion last year and our `A` team won Div 1 last year. We have several County players. The Kent County `A` team won the National Inter County Championship. We have 2 members in that team. We have 6 members in the Premier Team which reached the final of the knock our round this year. We welcome new members to our club.

MARTS (Medway Amateur Receiving & Transmitting Society).

Marts dates back to 1922. We have around 45 members. We meet each Friday at Tunbury Hall. We are affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain. Several members have won competitions including Jeff G4HIZ with his microwave transmitter winning with honours and Nigel G0GDA staged two special events relating to the Queen`s 90th birthday and her longest reign.

Other notable events included our 1st January Founders Day, numerous technical demonstrations and lectures. We entered several contests with moderate success. In August we held our annual two week outdoor field event at Bredgar near Sittingbourne and we had our regular `junk sale` with a good attendance and monies raised for funds.

CATKINS PRE-SCHOOL

There have been several fund raising events including an Easter Bonnet Parade raising £150 for the Oliver Fisher Special baby Unit. A Children in Need Coffee Morning & Art competition raised £226.90.

Staff have continued their training and various things have been done such as paving the outdoor area to stand the playhouse on. The kitchen sees lots of cooking and craft activities as well as the making of children`s Christmas cards, folders and chocolate yule logs. We held a Nativity play with programme sales going towards Demelza House Hospice. We had a Christmas Party with lots of festive fun had by all in attendance.