

# REPORT FOR AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL FROM TUNBURY HALL REPRESENTATIVE –Cllr Malcolm Wright

Once again Tunbury Hall has operated to maximum capacity with much activity and learning taking place. The Committee have met regularly to ensure the smooth running of the Centre for its regular users and casual hirers. Indeed the Hall is so well booked that we could really do with another hall space as when it comes to annual repairs and restoration works there is always a problem in finding the time to allocate for these tasks between our bookings. The finances have been well audited by our Treasurer and our loans and invoices have been paid on time. We are expecting a continuation of high usage over the coming year. The reports from our various users are now summarised here for your consideration and interest.

Cllr Malcolm Wright (Chairman) - Tunbury Hall Committee

**KUMON STUDY CENTRE** - There are 41 students taking English courses and 67 studying Maths. They are part of a world student population of over 4 million studying in 47 countries across the globe. Kumon was started 50 years ago in Japan and now there are over 600 study centres within the UK & Ireland.

**CATKINS PRE-SCHOOL** - Catkins has had another busy year including a successful Easter Bonnet Parade in March which raised £300.92 for the Oliver Fisher Special Baby Care Unit. Two staff have embarked on Level 3 Childcare qualifications and gained them in November. Catkins is working with guidance and support from KCC's `Setting Improvement Partners` scheme by providing activities which inspire and motivate, especially by having lots of fresh air and fun in the outside play area. The kitchen area is also popular and yummy chocolate yule logs were a firm favourite. At the Children in Need Coffee Morning & Art Competition £238 was raised. Two Nativity plays and a Childrens Party raised additional funds for the Demelza House Hospice.

**6<sup>th</sup> WALDESLADE BROWNIES** - There is a full pack of 28 girls. Events attended this year include the Pantomime in the village (Beauty & the Beast) and there was a barn dance. The pack has looked at Brownies around the world, had a mother & daughter evening and worked on a Seasons Badge which included a visit from a bee-keeper. There was an outdoor quiz at the park and we helped with the Summer and Christmas Fairs at Tunbury School. During the Summer 12 girls attended a weekend pack holiday with an English Seaside theme and undertook work connected with their Pack Holiday Badge. In the Autumn it was their Science Investigator Badge and there was also a Christmas Craft Evening. There was excitement at bonfire evening with lots of hot dogs being eaten! The pack was busy learning the new Brownie promise introduced in September. At Easter a `Rabbit & Carrot` party was held in costume which was lots of fun. The Christmas Party with games, food and a Christingle to make completed a busy year of activities.

**2<sup>nd</sup> WALDESLADE RAINBOWS** - As with the Brownies there is a full unit of 16 girls in Rainbows. Activities have included crafts such as weaving, cooking, a games evening and items relating to Mothers and Fathers Days. There has been badge work on `All About Me` and `The Seasons`. They looked at tadpoles and frogs and had a keep fit evening. Other themed evenings included Disney, Halloween, a Beach Party and Campfire. They celebrated Chinese New Year and St Valentine`s Day. The Rainbows joined up with the Brownies for a picnic at Guideland and at the aforementioned Rabbit & Carrot party at Easter, and at the Christmas Party in December. The Rainbows too have been very busy learning their new Rainbow promise introduced back in September.

**MODEL CAR RACING CLUB** - An advertising campaign through local model shops has seen the membership rise to 25 with, on average, 15 attending each week. Several local shops have recently ceased trading but with

two new local ones and Ashford Models the campaign to increase membership will continue. The club itself has invested in computerised lap counting and has a new control system. The number of racing classes has been reduced from 9 to 6 to cut costs for members. We are pleased to use Tunbury Hall as we have done since its opening.

**MEDWAY AMATEUR RECEIVING & TRANSMITTING SOCIETY** - Marts goes back to 1922 and now has a membership of over 40 people, most of whom hold Amateur Radio Transmitting Licences. A Founders Day event celebrating the Club's original members was held as well as several technical demonstrations and lectures such as 'State of the Art Radio Equipment', 'Contesting', 'Ways of Modulating and Displaying Radio Waves', 'Electronic Circuit Theory & Practice' and the like. Members also participated in several amateur radio contests. In August another outdoor field event was successful. Held over a period of 2 weeks at a field at Bredgar, nr Sittingbourne varied large and small transmitting aerials were erected and this year the weather was kind to us. Lastly a Junk Sale was popular proving that 'one man's junk is another man's treasure!

**BLUEBELL SCHOOL OF DANCE** - Our ballet 'Cinderella' was very successful raising £1000 through our associated raffle in aid of Demelza House. There were four dance festivals where we took over 200 medals and 30 cups. One of our boys won the All England Regional Final and went on to appear at the All England Final in London. Although he did not win he danced with 11 other outstanding students in the Senior Section who came from all parts of the UK. Our annual choreographic competition was held in December raising a further £86 for charity. Four sets of examinations have been held at Tunbury Hall with 100% pass rate and many pupils gaining distinctions. Once again Examiners have reported back favourably on the condition of the Hall and associated facilities. In March 2014 a new musical show 'Elemental' was performed at the Brook Theatre in Chatham. Past students have continued to excel with Sarah Thornewell now being the Production Co-ordinator for the X-Factor show and another pupil Lauren Forster is now a professional singer. Various others are working with cruise lines, holiday companies and in the theatre.

And as Chairman of Tunbury Hall I would personally like to congratulate Sue, Andy and their Team of Tutors for the truly magnificent sum of £40,000 that the Bluebell School of Dance has raised to date for Childrens' charities. A tremendous achievement and a fitting reminder of how local community facilities should be used to support and inspire our society.