

**PAXCROFT MEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE.**  
**CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2021 to MARCH 2022.**

We have had another good year at the Community Centre, maintaining a variety of regular users, party, and commercial bookings. Our occupancy rate remains at good levels with several new regular hirers having started in recent months.

We have continued to attract hirers from all over Trowbridge as well as from the surrounding towns in part due to the recommendation of the various activity providers such as About-a-Bounce, Bouncearoo and Active Trowbridge etc.

The Community Centre continues to operate on a very sound economic footing.

We continue to keep our hire rates low. We managed to keep our rates at the same level throughout the year, but they will be increased from 1st April 2023 to keep up with the rise of the fixed costs of running the Centre. Where we can, we have negotiated deals for our gas and electricity supplies which have helped. We are also grateful to Wiltshire Council for giving us maximum relief on the business rates.

We were fortunate to be able obtain government grants to assist us through the COVID closures which meant we finished the year in quite a healthy situation.

Work continues to keep the building condition to a good standard. A building condition survey was commissioned in February 2022 to give us a professional view of what needs to be done to maintain the building in the coming years. This proved to be a very useful exercise.

During the year we spent just under £10000 to replace both the high- and low-level plastic guttering with continuous aluminium guttering. The downpipes were also changed to metal. This will reduce the maintenance overhead for many years and provides a far more robust installation.

After experiencing several niggling problems, a decision was made to replace the building burglar alarm over the summer. The existing system used BT Redcare to signal any alarms to the Chubb monitoring centre. The new system uses a dual GPRS communications over the mobile network to send the alarms. This means we can look at an alternative broadband supplier as we are no longer tied to a Redcar line. The new system was also supplied with 10 fobs so the system can be set and unset by simply touching the keypad with the fob. This alone has decreased to number of "panic" calls to Chubb.

We suffered some vandalism at the rear of the building where the handrail and retaining wall beside the steps leading up to the Meeting Room fire exit was demolished. This was repaired by a local contractor at a cost of just under £1500.

I would like to record a big thank you to the members of the committee who have assisted with running the building and managing the booking meet and greets.

Alan Thirlwell continues to take the lion's share of welcoming visitors to the Centre along with the rest of the Management Committee

I would particularly like to thank all the officers for their time and effort over the past year.

We are fortunate to have such a strong team of volunteers willing to put in the time and effort to run the Centre so smoothly. We are still under strength and would welcome some new volunteers.

Jonathan Hawkes. Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022