

## **Ruspidge Memorial Hall Annual Report 2021-2022**

### **1. Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers**

a. **Charity name**:- Ruspidge Memorial Hall

b. **Charity Registration Number**:- 1050287

c. **Charity Address** (secretary):-  
21B Ruspidge Rd , Glos. GL14 3AE

d. **Names of Trustees** on the date that the report was approved

Betty Coleman

Lesley Dunckley

Jenny East

Sally Graham

Tony Matthews

Jennie Radford

Pam Sheppard

e. **Names of other people** who served as a trustee in 2020-21

Nicky Herbert

John Powell

Norman Snell

### **2. Structure, governance and management**

a. The charity is administered and managed in accordance with the provisions of the conveyance and trust deed, dated 5th December 1921, as varied by the scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners on 7th April 1995.

b. The trustees are the members of the management committee.

c. The management committee consists of a maximum of 6 elected members, 8 representative members and 2 co-opted members.

d. Members hold office from the time that they join the committee until the subsequent AGM.

e. The charity holds its Annual General Meeting in March and elected trustees/ committee members are chosen at that meeting.

- f. User groups appoint the representative members.
- g. The management committee holds monthly meetings
- h. The Treasurer prepares year end accounts and these undergo an independent examination i.e. an external review is carried out by an independent person with the requisite ability and practical experience to carry out a competent examination.

### **3. Financial review**

- a. No reserves policy is in place.
- b. No fund is in deficit

### **4. Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others**

Not applicable

### **5. Public benefit statement**

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties. See next section.

### **6. Objectives and activities**

- a. THE OBJECTIVES of the charity are "the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Ruspidge without distinction of political, religious, or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants".
- b. The charity undertakes the following regular activities which further its charitable purposes for the public benefit:-
  - Operates a booking system for the hall.
  - Manages rental income from use of the hall.
  - Deals with utility companies
  - Complies with relevant safety legislation
  - Ensures that assets are properly insured
  - Ensures that Financial Governance measures are in place
  - Maintains the fabric of the building and organises cleaning of the property

- Raises additional funds

### **c. FUND RAISING**

The 200 Club continued to be the main fund-raiser for the Hall raising £. with prizes of £ paid out of this.

Due to the Covid pandemic and lockdown restrictions, there was little opportunity for fund raising activities as many people were nervous about socialising until much later in the year.

An Open Day was held in early September to welcome people back to the hall. This included a table top sale and refreshments were served. Proceeds were divided between the Hall and the McMillan Fund, which received £250.

A £250 grant to improve facilities for visitors with dementia was received from GRCC. The money was used to provide improved toilet facilities, better lighting in the access to the gents toilets, visible light switch surrounds, a barrier to the stage steps and improved interior signage. Our thanks go to GRCC.

Another Grant was received from Wyldwood Arts to make a banner representing the Hall. The banner was completed and displayed at a Banner parade in Cinderford in September. It will be hung in the main hall.

A substantial grant of £5000 for 'Thriving Communities' was received from Gloucestershire CC. This money will be used during 2022 (to December) to support new user groups and to help existing groups which are no longer thriving as viable entities. Several groups are now lined up to start their activity in the spring of 2022. Other uses for the grant include improving the acoustics of the lower hall to increase use in that hall. To this end curtains have been purchased and acoustic tiles are planned. Our grateful thanks are extended to GRCC for the grant

### **d. REGULAR USER GROUPS**

#### **WEEKLY classes:**

These did not start taking place until well into 2021 due to continuing restrictive national guidance and the reluctance of many group users and organisers to resume activities too early. One long standing group, the Golden Oldies closed altogether and has not yet been replaced in any significant way. However, it is hoped that a new Chill and Chat group and occasional Bingo sessions may kick-start the impetus for a new group for the elderly. The Ladies Club also did not resume their monthly meetings but they will re-start in April 2022.

There were interludes of respite in the Covid restrictions and the following classes continued when they were legally able to:

- **Shaolin** Kung Fu
- **Yoga**- this continued when possible and is now well established with occasional 2nd sessions in the week

Since then , the following weekly groups have re-started along with some new ones:

**Fitness for Health**

**Latin and Ballroom Dancing**

**Brownies and Guides**

**Junior Ballroom Dancing**

A dance class for pre-school children did start , but sadly this was not viable with very little uptake, and it closed operations after a few months.

**MONTHLY meetings:**

- **Gardening club** has now resumed a well attended schedule of meetings
- **Book club**
- **Craft Group**

e. **Hall Maintenance**

Peter Ellis retired after many years of stalwart service to the hall. Grateful thanks are extended to him for his hard work over the years in maintaining the fabric of the Hall.

Other improvements which were carried out through 2021 were the decoration and upgrading of the lobby area and the total refurbishment of the main doors and entrance area to improve the first impressions of the hall to visitors.

A Nest system was installed for smart-phone control of the heating in the upper hall. This has been a very welcome innovation.

**7. Achievements and performance**

The management committee met regularly throughout the year 2021-22.

Signature of Trustee and Date

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