Axminster Guildhall Management Committee

Chairman’s Report for the Year April 2018 to March 2019

Over the past 12 months the Guildhall bookings have continued their steady improvement since the low point of April 2017.

Several Hirers have returned to the Guildhall, whilst we have also attracted new ones. The range of current Hirers include: dance; yoga; majorettes; zumba, keep fit, musical theatre and drama; one man shows; civic and community events; blood donation; and family celebrations and commemorations. Some of the new regular Hirers are a Diabetes clinic ; Arts Society; and Jehovah Witnesses.

Our greatest money earners have been tribute bands, such as Jersey Boys and Queen, and individual performers such as Jethro. The Guildhall finances have benefitted from the new charging arrangements put in place for such events

To encourage new Hirers or inform persons wanting to participate in a current activity we display a weekly calendar on Guildhall information boards. These displays show the date of the event and its start time. Additional information may also be available on promotional posters.

Last year I spoke of our Manager, Anni Young’s vision, shared by the Guildhall Management Committee, for the future improvements needed for the hall. So that it can cater for as wide a range of events as possible. During the past year a new sound desk and speakers have been installed, a new glass washer purchased and new food hygiene equipment put in place.

Priorities for the coming year are replacement of the outer glazed swing door into the main foyer, new carpets and improvements to the stage area including new wall and ceiling panels, and new curtains and tracking. Bar Refurbishment is also proposed. Redecoration will be carried out when appropriate.

I would like to thank Anni Young (Guildhall Manager), Geoff Enticott (Caretaker/Bar Manager), Becky Russett (Cleaner), all our casual Staff and the Management Committee personnel who all help to make the Guildhall a happy and enjoyable place to be.

I must not forget our Designated Premises Supervisor, John Jeffery. John works “behind the scenes” ensuring that the premises are correctly used within terms of our licence. Her Majesty the Queen has recognised John’s work in the community by awarding him a British Empire Medal in January 2019. Thank you, John and well done.

Finally my thanks to the Town Council.