

CUDDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
19th April 2023

REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Bernard Hall - Rob Morris-Jones

After the extensive disruptions to Bernard Hall activities in 2020 and 2021 caused by the COVID pandemic everything returned to normal during 2022. Cuddington Youth Drama ("CYD") continue to use the Hall every Saturday during the School term. The Sunshine Club restarted their periodic film performances in March 2022. There were a number of private parties and lastly but by no means least there are the weekly Village Picture House ("VPH") films and National Theatre performances from September through to July.

Financially the Hall made a small loss of £899 in 2022. This was due to a one-off expense of £4,800 required to repair a major fault on the projector in December which had to be returned to the manufacturers resulting in cancelled screenings. Unfortunately, the projector was just out of warranty and the insurers would not cover the cost of the repair.

VPH audiences are now back to pre-covid levels. Since the start of 2023 audience figures have risen by 23% from an average of 36 to 45 people per screening and there have been 5 full houses since the start of January (Full house = 60). National Theatre Live Performances are popular attracting good audiences both from within and especially outside the village.

Voneous installed fast fibre broadband free of charge in the Hall at the end of May last year and have been sponsoring the marketing and print costs in return for their logo on the flyers for the last year. Broadband will be essential for future screening of films when they would be streamed and downloaded rather than purchasing Blu-ray DVD's.

We are very grateful for the fantastic support from our VPH front of house volunteers and our special thanks to Jey and Sugi who sell our tickets in the shop and provide refreshments in the Hall every week, and not forgetting the redoubtable Chris Long who all transform the Hall onto your Village Picture House every Thursday from September to July each year. Finally, thanks to John Cooper who organises everything and without whom there would no VPH! If anyone would like to join the FOH team please contact John Cooper or Chris Long.

Finally I would like to thank the Management Committee who have once again done a great job of running the Hall during the last year. Chris Lockett, Brian Woodford, Caroline Winnicott, Jessica Ecott, Charlotte Cooper, and Zoe Gibson have all made full contributions and I am very grateful for their support.

I will be unable to attend the Village Meeting but if you have any questions / suggestions you can email me on robmojo65@hotmail.com or message me on 07767 436892.

Village Voice – Helen Keeping, Rachael Barnard, Erica Lowe

Produced ten times a year, it is free to all households in the village (its funding comes from the Parish Council, St Nicholas Church, Cuddington Fete and sponsorship – both business and private). Regular articles include the Village Picture House, Cuddington School, and Greener Cuddington. We invite articles, from all villagers, on a variety of subjects.