

Watton at Stone Community Hall Board of Trustees

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2001

Trustees: Mr. N. C. Poulton Mr. D.J. Stock
 Mr. I. C. Knight Mr. J. Meischke

The charity was formed on 7th August 1997 to promote sport, sporting activities and recreational facilities within the village of Watton at Stone and the surrounding villages, and to provide an information centre within the village for local residents to use at no cost.

During the financial year the trustees met four times, and reported the details of their meetings to the full Parish Council.

During the period of this report, the trustees have continued to achieve their objectives within the overall requirements of the charity.

A full safety check has been undertaken on all electrical, gas and fire appliances and a ROSPA inspection has been undertaken on the Play Area.

The major task undertaken during the year was the resurfacing of the Multi-Purpose Play Area plus the laying of a pebble soak-away around the perimeter of the area. Money for this work came from the Parish Council, lottery and East Herts District Council. The only works outstanding are the line marking of the courts and this should be completed early April.

The Trustees have agreed that a boot scraper be purchased to be installed at the entrance to the MPPA to save mud being trampled on to the court.

The Tennis Club has volunteered to relay the paving slabs.

A replacement floodlight was purchased and fitted.

External decorations have been undertaken to the Community Hall and internal painting including the outside toilets, paintwork in the common areas and part decorating of the Pavilion. On completion of these works contract cleaners will be asked to clean and seal the floors.

A further boot scraper is to be purchased and installed outside the Community Hall.

The Trustees have again experienced a spate of vandalism. Four broken windows. The ladies hand dryer was destroyed in the early part of the year and this has been replaced following an insurance claim. The gents hand dryer was vandalised towards the end of the year and has now been repaired. A bench was broken by the children's play area and this has been removed and will not be replaced. Six kicker boards were broken on the MPPA and two bin liners destroyed all have been repaired or replaced.

The Sports and Social is experiencing internal problems with their structure but this has had no effect on the hire agreement – All clubs continue to use the facilities.

The Summer Play Scheme was a great success and was attended by a large number of Watton children. The Trustees allowed the use of the building free of charge to this scheme.

The Cricket section has bought one set of site screens for the cricket season for which they are responsible. They have also asked permission to erect a shed on the sports field. This has been granted, subject to planning permission and the Diocesan Board approval. This shed is to house the roller and their equipment.

The hire charges have been revised down for Friday, Saturday and Sunday in a hope to increase usage on those days.