

Henley Community Centre Charity

Firstly, on behalf of all the Trustees may I Thank the staff and volunteers who continue to contributed so much to the day to day running of the Community Centre.

Over the last 3 years, we have undertaken an enormous number of upgrades and general building maintenance. Most noticeable is the work carried out around the grounds, with the borders, hedges and trees all trimmed and back under control. Inside the building, most of the rooms have now been decorated, the kitchen shutters have been replaced, there have been many electrical changes (some to conform to raised standards, others to achieve energy savings) and a lot of improvements to address issues raised by a Health & Safety review.

We need to thank Councillor Caston and MSDC for funding the replacement of dressing room flooring and central heating manifolds, both a legacy of work initiated well over a year ago.

The total cost of all this work was in excess of £10,000. It does not stop there. The estimated cost of the work still to be undertaken means that the expenditure during the current year is unlikely to reduce.

Obviously, such spending does need an income to match – or almost. The combined income from hires and the covenant received from the Bar during the last financial year appears to be the highest yet and the prospects for 2017/18 are very encouraging.

On the social side, “The Henley Chefs” have provided a number of sociable meals, the profits from which we are in the process of dividing between ourselves and a variety of other charities. We have also played hosts to events run by a number of other village organisations who are raising funds for themselves. We are also proud to be the home of the new Suffolk & Ipswich League Senior Division Champions, Henley Athletic.

Personally, I think there are 2 social events missing from our calendar – a Summer Fayre and a New Year’s Eve party. Such events need a lot of support from the village just to get them off the ground. Looking ahead to next year, we hope to be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the official opening during July. Hopefully with enough warning, an event to remember will be staged.