



Chairman's Report for the Annual General Meeting

for the financial year of January 1st 2019 to December 31st 2019.



As Vice Chairman, I took over as Interim Chairman when Doreen Paterson (Chairman, Trustee and Centre Manager) died on 6 November 2019. We all – that is the Trustees and our users – miss her tremendously. Doreen ran the Old Woking Community Centre with a vision of the community for the community.

The permanent position of Chairman will be decided upon at the next AGM.

With the help of many of our Trustees, we have managed to gain a few new hirers. Six halls are not easy to fill as we cannot have, for example, Tap Dancing on the first floor when Whist or Bridge are played below or Opera next to Meditation. Our most popular halls are the Main Hall and the Elizabethan Hall. Dance is our most popular activity, whilst Yoga and Meditation are also popular. On Tuesdays we host a local branch of the Surrey Library, an IT Suite in the Shackleford Hall and the Chinese Society in the Main Hall. Our Library also has Chinese adult books. Over the weekend it is mainly parties for children and adults together with dance groups, theatre, a Gospel church and opera shows.

There are many who help keep the Centre running: the Trustees, the three library volunteers, the three computer volunteers, the two toddler group volunteers as well as our one paid morning cleaner, who services the Centre and the building with utmost care and dedication. A massive “thank you” to all these people.

We are hoping to create a partnership with Woking College who need more space. This would help us financially and make more use of the Old Woking Community Centre during the day time. These discussions are on-going.

This report has been written in April 2020 for the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 30 April 2020 but the Annual General Meeting has had to be postponed because of the coronavirus crisis. This report and the report to the Charities Commission will be placed on-line before the deadline date of 31 October and the Annual General Meeting will happen in some form dependent on the advice of the Government at this difficult time.

Signed (electronically):

Holger Marsen

(Interim Chairman)

