

As previously informed I intend to resign as Chairman at this Annual General Meeting 2010.

I feel it is time someone else replaced me and brought fresh impetuosity to heading the Flackwell Heath Community Association.

I have enjoyed these past years in heading a very successful and hard working team.

We have strived to make the Centre more welcoming and a better environment for all users.

The many improvements commenced with the extensive refurbishment of the Centre adding a disabled toilet and baby changing unit along with new ladies and gentlemen toilets and a new store room and cleaners cupboard This at a cost of some £90,000.

The next major task was to refit and refurbish the kitchen this at a cost of some £15,000.

The outside area of flagstones was replaced with tarmac making the paths a lot easier and safer to walk on.

New chairs for the Centre were obtained, a new carpet fitted in the Sarney room ,a new tea trolley, a new heater to make hot drinks and cages to put books in for the paperback library. The lighting was refurbished inside the main hall and new lighting placed on the outside for Christmas festivities and other functions.

The railings round the Centre have been painted and the woodwork on the Sarney room has been painted. This work was completed by the Community Payback Team. Many thanks to Jeff Herchel for organising this.

The brickwork had to have remedial treatment by having expansion joints placed in the wall as the brickwork was starting to move and cracks had appeared. This work was completed at a cost of some £10,000.

Thanks go to Jim Fanning for all his help with the building projects.

The Garden area has improved and over the summer months has looked wonderful. Thanks to Lynne and Chris.

The Grapevine now in colour has continued from strength to strength under the editor Tim Kendell. The many interesting articles on local issues and news of all the various associations make this an excellent read. Thanks to Tim and his team.

All the above as you realise has cost a lot of money and this has been raised through functions, grants and the hire charges for the rooms in the Centre.

The diverse usage of the Centre by the many groups has proved what an important part it plays in village life. The rooms are hired for many private functions from children's party's to Age Concern dinners.

The functions the Association have organised over the years have included Barn Dances, a 50's 60's Dance, and Wine Tasting evenings. The Classical concert each year has become a fixture and I have to thank John Timewell for all his hard work and effort in putting the Concert together.

A stall is booked each year at the Cherry Fair again to raise funds and the Residents Association are to be congratulated for making the annual Cherry Fair such a major event in the village each year. We also have the annual quiz night which is a joint function with the Residents Association.

In regard to the many functions over the years none of this would have happened but for my wife Joan who although not on the Committee has worked hard in organising the catering, the raffles and a lot of the ticket sales. Without her help and hard work the functions would not have been as good as they have been. They say behind every man etc.

As we say in the North thanks pet.

I end by thanking the Officers and Committee members who I have been proud to work with. The unseen work and enthusiasm and support they have given me are second to none.

May I wish you all well in the coming years and may I thank all the users of the Centre for their support and input in making the Centre such a vibrant place.

Regards

John Sweetman

Chairman