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The Hub Annual Report 2022-2023

This past year the Hub trustees and management team have focussed on reaffirming the Hub's central role as a vibrant, valued and well-used resource at the heart of our three villages and their communities. Following on from the previous two year's disruption and closure caused by the Covid pandemic it's been a time for redefining and restating the value and usefulness of this great community resource, reminding residents of the Hub's commitment to being accessible to all and to providing opportunities for listening to and participation from all our constituents in the shaping of future activities – to delivering consistently and appropriately the resources and services that local residents are calling for and will most value. Simultaneously the Hub's leadership has been focussing on building its human and financial assets so that we can consistently deliver those resources and services harmoniously and cost-effectively, so that the financial and emotional wellbeing of the Hub and its management team are balanced and secure into the future. So, 2022/23 has been a year for putting in place a new structure and approach for the Hub and its trustees.

Transparency and accountability have been watchwords this past year, so on 6th February 2023 the Hub trustees and management team held their first open evening, to which all residents of the three villages were invited. There was a good attendance, following a short presentation for the trustees on the role and structure of the trustees, with some perceptive questions from the audience, a very positive participation session was held which led to the drafting of some perceived priorities for future activities. Some of these have already been put into action successfully. The meeting ended with a commitment from the trustees to hold more and regular accountability meetings in future, and with a call to all residents to support their Hub positively.

Also significant this year and going forward is the generally adverse economic climate currently afflicting our communities, with substantial increases for many residents in basic living costs. There's been a considerable expansion of the Hub's regular activities during the year, and some losses too, usually caused by those who use the Hub's services curtailing their activities because of the rising cost of living. Despite continuing concerns re the potential impact of local financial pressures on Hub services, the



management team is optimistic about maintaining the current level of services and even the potential for significant growth.

Expanding regular activities: For active individuals there's now opportunities galore for sports – yoga, Zumba, table tennis and a variety of leisure pursuits offering rhythm, fun and fitness. For the less physical there's bingo, the monthly brunches and occasional 'specials' – music and social entertainments – all offering a chance to chat, to meet and greet friends old and new. Then there's the Kids' Club every other week, the mobile library, occasional amateur dramatics and other examples of frivolity and fun where anyone and everyone can join in... And there's much more even than all this: rumour has it there are frequent bursts of magic too, because whenever people come together to share in common fellowship, great things often just happen, with fresh friendships and many memories being made. This year saw the last visit of the Rural Coffee Caravan, with a hugely successful pancake day, enjoyed by all.

Warm space: Inside the Hub's spectacular space there's light, flair, design, style and often, beautiful sounds. There's also warmth, comfort, opportunities for lots of innovation and invention, with activities and interests to appeal to all appetites. Towards the end of 2022 the Hub was opened for 12 hours each day as a warm space available for all, where people could come and meet friends over tea and coffee in a comfortable, cosy environment. As the anticipated winter weather turned out to be milder than predicted, the take-up wasn't huge, but it was valued and showed clear potential for growth. It was also appreciated as an example of the Hub's willingness to be available to offer practical help to local people under pressure. The book swap facility proved to be particularly popular. Looking forward, the warm room will remain open as a community space.

Towards the end of last year the Hub set up its own web site to improve communication and bookings and is proving to be a good marketing tool for events. The Hub can now be found at www.hub4all.org or email us at enquiries@hub4all.org.

Looking forward

In the coming year we anticipate further growth with more regular classes and events for our communities such as family film and pizza nights. There will be more for the kids to do too with a new youth club and toddler storytime sessions.



Thanks are due to all Hub supporters and users, to the management team, Charlie Yule and Alex Dipple and to the dozens of volunteers who give their time and expertise so regularly, consistently and cheerfully to help the Hub put on events and activities for all local people. Two new trustees, Julie Collett and Lauren Moloney, were appointed during the year covered by this report, and two established trustees, Stephen Moorhouse and David Burrows, stepped down after many years of service to the Hub.

On behalf of the Hub trustees:

Sara Back, Jim Wardale, Lauren Moloney, Allan Pike, Julie Collett, Ken Burnett.