



## **Roadwater Village Hall - Hallmark Three**

**Date of Visit - 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013**

**Visitors - Andrea Johnstone and John Weeks**

The picturesque location of Roadwater Village Hall is such that, on a warm late summer's day, it was easy to imagine hearing the sound of leather on willow followed by polite applause echoing across from the adjoining cricket pitch. This would be accompanied by the sound of children's laughter from the playground, both of which are next to the hall and administered as part of Roadwater Village Trust. The hall itself, built in 1928 of local stone and covered with wisteria, is a two storey building situated at the heart of the village, both geographically and socially.

Since the visitors' previous visit, the floor of the main hall had been sanded and new chairs purchased, both giving a very nice appearance to a hall which had previously created a good impression in any case.

The hall has an excellent web site which is easy to follow and explains most things which any potential user would wish to know. There is a very comprehensive booking form in use which is based on the ACRE model. Whilst regular users have their own keys, there are three key holders living in properties adjacent to the hall, so access is never a problem.

Care has been taken for those with disabilities with the hearing loop having been replaced recently after the work on the floor of the main hall. A newsletter is distributed to local residents on an irregular basis as and when required. However, a "Big Breakfast" event is held once a month and, by this means, most residents are aware of ongoing events in the village. This well attended breakfast is also used to draw attention to other matters affecting the community, such as a display in regard to flood prevention earlier this year.

Age U.K. have started two new groups at the hall and there is now a cinema club, which has proved to be very popular. The Committee work well with the local church and also the Exmoor National Park Authority - the latter having financed the photo voltaic panels on the south roof. Events are frequently held for both social and fund raising purposes and, although there is some spare daytime capacity in the booking diary, there is little in the evenings.

Currently there is no Internet connection at the hall but this is being investigated, partly so that the wood chip heating system can be controlled remotely, thus preventing it being run unnecessarily after users have, contrary to requests, tampered with the main control panel.

The only slight problem which the visitors could find was a lack of written policies in relation to certain matters. The hall does have such policies but these are, at present, written into the hiring agreement and similar documents. We were given assurances that separate policies would be prepared as a matter of urgency to enable Hallmark Three to be awarded.\*\*

Providing that this last point can be dealt with we have no hesitation whatsoever in recommending that Roadwater Village Hall is worthy of the award of Hallmark Three. The committee are to be congratulated on the efficient way in which they are running this essential community asset for their small and somewhat isolated village.

Andrea Johnstone and John Weeks, Visitors  
2nd September 2013

**\*\* An Equal Opportunities Policy and a Children & Vulnerable Persons' Policy have been drafted for adoption by the hall and copies submitted to the Community Council for Somerset.**

***Please note that this report is based on information provided by members of the hall committee present at the time of the visit. It is the responsibility of the hall committee to report any inaccuracies or misrepresentations within the report to the Community Council for Somerset for correction or amendment.***