

Chairman's Report 15.6.15

- Welcome everyone to the meeting
- Chairman's Report, Financial Report & Questions from the floor
- Appointment of new trustees

Chairmans Report

- Report covers the period from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015
- Current trustees took over at the end of June 2014.
- Faced with some significant challenges
 - Finances were poor
 - Governance eroded
 - Under spend on hall leading to:
 - Dilapidation of building
 - Neglect of safety issues, esp, Fire Certificates and fire fighting materials
 - Poor decoration
 - Mouse infestation
 - Boiler not working
 - Poor public engagement
- Having taken stock of the situation, we identified 5 priorities:
 - Improve governance
 - Reduce costs
 - Improve sustainability
 - Improve public engagement and relevance to village
 - Increase income
- That gave us the framework to work to
 - **Improve governance:** New constitution up to improve accountability, spread responsibility, improve financial controls and formalise appointment and removal of trustees. It also brought it in line with the charities act 2011.
 - **Reduce costs** All areas of expenditure were examined and better deals negotiated were possible. As a result of that we have reduced the core running costs from £9000 pa to £7300 pa
 - **Improve sustainability.** It was just hard work running the hall, so:
 - Registered with the post office
 - Role specific emails
 - Installed broadband
 - Got new bins
 - Installed Hive
 - All these changes necessary to run a hall that is very busy
 - **Improve public engagement and relevance to village**
 - Newsletter & Website vital to that
 - Launched Friends of the village hall
 - Staged events across all age groups
 - Sought out new users
 - Best summed up by the phrase we all adopted at the start "Recreation For All"

- Current list of events includes
- **Increase income**
 - Reviewed charges
 - launched a web site
 - launched a village wide news letter
 - Launched a Facebook page
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 - improved the look and decoration of the hall
 - Staged events to get people through the doors. Events included
 - Children's Christmas party
 - Seniors Christmas party
 - Catfest
 - New Years Eve party
 - Abba Tribute
 - Sponsored walk
 - Still to come, we have the fete and beer & cider festival
 - Doubled our efforts with the 200 club, this year sold 187 of the 200 numbers, securing a profit of £1100
 - Net result of that was a 32% increase in income. By using that to fund the events, combined with reduced overheads, we increased profitability by 302%. All of this has fed through to cash in the bank. At the time the new trustees took over cash in the bank amounted to £6000. As of the 31st of March this year, that figure was £16,500 and as of today, £20,000

So the hall has had a good year, but we must look to the future. Its success depends on the quality of the board of trustees and its ability to attract new and enthusiastic people. I hope we are achieving that

For the future:

- We need to ensure that we continue to be guided by the 5 priorities originally set.
- We need to embed a calendar of events that will provide enjoyment for residents and allow us to raise the money necessary to maintain and improve the hall.
- Short term we have
 - Fete
 - Beer & Cider Festival
- We currently have an application with Viridor Credits to re-lay the car park
- We are very eager to address the acoustics in the hall
- Improve our knowledge of grant funding
- Replace grass cutting equipment

I would like to thank the trustees for their support, as well as all the numerous friends of the hall for all the work they do.