

Great Easton Village Hall Chairman's Report 2015

This has been my first year as Chairperson of the Village Hall committee and I would like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work and commitment. I would especially like to thank Alice who has been a great Co-Chair and has helped me get through this first year with most of my remaining hair intact!

We started the year with a number of changes on the committee, with the positions of Chair, Deputy & Treasurer all being vacated - with this number of changes, this year was always going to be a case of holding station and trying to ensure that income covered our costs - we will hear more on that from Vikki shortly. I think we have done this with a good deal of success, and it's been great that the new committee has thought up some new fund raising events which have been well received.

We had 5 events through the year which were well attended (well, 4½ as the proceeds from the World War 1 event were split 50/50):

- Jumble Sale in May
- Party in the Park in July (many thanks to Nora for her hard work on this)
- Bingo evening in September
- World War 1 event
- Pamper Evening in November

Recognising the need to continue the fund raising efforts, we need to ensure we keep the momentum up with these events, indeed, we have our first fund raising event at the end of this month with a talk from Julian Evans, and we must ensure that we continue to learn from each event to ensure we are able to remain solvent.

My thanks go to Flick for continuing to organise the 100 club, which continues to be a valuable boost to our income.

We have been unfortunate this year with higher than expected utility bills. Both the gas & water bills were higher than expected - the water due to a number of small leaks/drips that had gone unnoticed for a time & the gas, is suspect, due to the cold winter. The leaks/drips have now been fixed, although we continue to monitor the meter closely and we have changed gas supplier which should provide a cheaper supply.

All of our regular users continue to remain with us and it is encouraging to see the hall so well used. The Youth Club stopped for a time but is back up and running, hopefully for many years to come.

We have created a new web site for the Village Hall this year, and set up Wi-Fi throughout the hall - hopefully this will help drive additional customers to select the hall for their events.

I would like to thank Cath, Margaret and Ivor for their work keeping the exterior of the hall looking so lovely - ensuring that the garden is well kept and that making the hanging baskets for the front of the hall during summer.

We have some great ideas for events for the forthcoming year and a solid committee who are very capable of delivering them to a high standard and of keeping the hall running well for the local community.

Finally, I would like to thank the generous donations from:

- Margaret Stamp from the sale of the Great Easton Calendars
- Cath Lupton from the Line Dancing group
- Mary Henniker-Major
- Eric Craven