

# Great Easton Village Hall Chairman's Report 2016

There has been an eventful end to the year, with a number of changes put in place to the hall admin and the successful production of Aladdin by the Great Easton Little Theatre Company, which put the hall to full use and brought a number of our regular users together to support the production.

I would firstly like to thank the committee for their continued hard work and commitment in helping to organise and run our events and also help keep the hall in good running order.

We had 5 events again this year which were in general well attended:

- Julian Evans Talk
- Treasure Hunt and BBQ
- Jumble Sale
- Quiz and Chips
- Pamper Night

There was a disappointing turnout for the Treasure Hunt and BBQ and the bar takings for the Pamper Night suffered due to a clash with an event at the pub, however overall we are in a good financial position at the moment - more on this from Vikki shortly.

We have our first event of the year, a bingo evening, this coming week and we need to ensure that we continue to plan in these events to ensure our finances remain healthy. I should also extend my thanks to Flick for continuing to organise the 100 club, which continues to be a valuable boost to our income.

We have bought our utility bills under control, which was an issue for us last year, having negotiated a competitive rate on gas and electricity prices.

We made changes to the hall charges in June this year which has simplified the charging, with a further change coming next June to bring all groups into line.

Of our regular users, both Mums & Tots and Youth Club have closed this year; however we have a new Yoga class, now in their 7<sup>th</sup> week, as well as some significant use by the Great Easton Little Theatre Company. We also have had a rise in the number of bookings and enquiries for private events.

Following on from our spring clean, we have been able to tidy the store room further and also move the chairs and tables onto the stage for storage.

We have completed a number of general maintenance jobs this year, including (hopefully) resolving the ongoing ladies loo damp patch. Some small electrical works are also underway.

January brought perhaps the biggest change of the year, with Marie, our caretaker stepping down suddenly. Whilst this was a challenge, it has provided us with the catalyst to make a number of changes, including making the bookings diary available on the website and visible to everyone. The committee pulled together and we have a trial in place to ensure the upkeep of the hall, with Sally stepping in to manage the hall cleaning and all regular groups having their own key to access the hall.

I would like to thank Cath & Bill for providing and maintaining the hanging baskets which keep the front of the hall so attractive through the summer. I would also like to thank Margaret, Ivor, Bob & Paul for ensuring that the garden is well kept.

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

- Margaret Stamp from the sale of the Great Easton Calendars
- Great Easton Little Theatre Company
- Cath Lupton from the Line Dancing group
- Roger & Pam Armstrong from the Whist Club
- Alan Wilmer
- Alice Murdock
- Great Easton Post Office & Stores
- Mary Henniker-Major
- Jill Christie
- Flick & Eric Craven