

## **Chairperson's Report 2015**

This is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> Village Hall Committee AGM that I have conducted – how time flies when you're having fun.

Firstly, I am pleased to report your village hall continues to be in a very healthy position both structurally and financially, which are two of the key responsibilities of the committee. There are a great many people who contribute their time voluntarily towards the ensuring our hall is well maintained, well managed and consequently well utilised. Demand for the hall continues to be strong from both within the village and beyond and we intend to continue to invest in and upgrade the hall to ensure the facilities we offer are among the best in the area.

Tonight is the occasion when I can give my public thanks to a number of key individuals without whom the hall would certainly not be as successful as it is. So to Christine Powell our Bookings Secretary, Bev Beveridge our Projects Manager, Bob Hawkins our Treasurer and Gabriele McCarthy our cleaner housekeeper, thank you all very much for your involvement and we all appreciate the considerable efforts you expend on ensuring the continued well-being of the hall.

I cannot let this occasion pass without recording my sincere gratitude to Dylan Jones in his role as Committee Secretary. His attention to detail, his ideas, his drive and his discipline have been a major feature both at committee meetings and with the necessary follow-up work that ensues. Dylan thank you very much.

We will hear later on from Al Bowyer, our fund-raiser extraordinaire, but I must use this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Al and his team for their unstinting work to devise and put on some great events that not only benefit the halls finances, but also are a major contributor towards our village social scene. Thank you Al and team.

I just want to mention the success we had with the 2 family film events in the summer and to advise we are planning a further family film event just before Christmas. Publicity leaflets will be available out very shortly.

Now as you know, 2016 will herald another village day and I am able to advise you that yours truly will be leading the organising committee on this occasion and I shall update you on our progress at our normal monthly meetings.

In addition to the village hall, the committee also have responsibility for the King George V playing field and the land that surrounds it. Over the years, this surrounding land has been tended and maintained by our very own Conservation Group and tonight I want to publicly convey the committees' appreciation for the fantastic work undertaken by John Moorby and his band of merry co-workers who meet every 2 weeks to nurture, prune, and manage the vegetation that grows on the banks. Thank you to John and the conservation team.

As with most organisations, we have to be careful about spending money and we devote a considerable amount of time discussing and debating proposed expenditure projects which I believe is both a healthy and necessary part of the decision-making process. There is one project that will commence immediately after Christmas, and that is the replacing of all gutters, drainpipes, bargeboard and soffits. This investment will not only considerably enhance the appearance of the hall, but should keep the maintenance of these essential components off the agenda for many years to come. I have already mentioned the investment in our own stage lighting kit, with the generous legacy from Mrs Sloan, and we are still considering improvements to the sound system that I mentioned at last year's AGM. We continue to ensure a contingency fund of £20k is available for use in the event of the hall suffering a major incident such as a roof collapse or the boiler failing, and this amount is reviewed on an annual basis. Overall, as I hope we will hear later on from Bob Hawkins, our financial position is healthy.

Most of you will already be aware that an initiative to create a Multi-Use Games Area at the far end of the front football pitch has commenced. This is a joint effort by the Residents Association, Hughenden Valley Football Club, and the Village Hall Committee and work to secure initial funding and to seek planning permission is well advanced. This project is a direct response to requests from villagers of all ages for an all-year-round surface to facilitate exercise and sport. Progress reports can be found in the latest issue of Hughenden News and on the Residents Association website.

So, in conclusion, our hall is still the envy of many of the surrounding villages, and this has only been achieved by the tremendous efforts of the numerous volunteers that give their time and resource, so thank you to each and every one of those individuals. I look forward to joining you for the refreshments at the end of the meeting.

And now I invite Bob Hawkins, our treasurer to give us his review.