

Great Easton Village Hall Chairman's Report - March 2017

It has been a very successful year for the village hall, with several improvements implemented in the hall including a new oven and new projector & screen. The changes we put in place to the hall admin have bedded in well which we can see in the increase in bookings.

I would like to thank the committee for their continued hard work and commitment in helping to organise and run our events and in keeping the hall in good running order. I would also like to extend my thanks to Flick for continuing to organise the 100 club, which continues provide a valuable boost to our income.

We cut back on the number of events we organised this year, partly due to the healthy financial position we are in and also due to the unpredictability of the interest in the events. This was clearly shown by the bingo evening which had previously been a well-attended evening, but this year was cancelled due to a lack of ticket sales. The Quiz and Chips evening was again very well attended, as was the Queen's birthday tea party held in conjunction with the Parish Council, but our final event of the year, Sing Along a Sound of Music, had a very low turnout although a great time was had by all who attended.

We completed the standardisation of our hall charges in June, moving to a simplified charging structure, and we have no plans to increase the charges this year.

We welcomed back the Youth Group and two new groups, Clubbercise and Crafternoons, have started this year. However we have lost the Neighbourhood Plan meetings as this work comes to an end and the well-received Children's Performing Arts class, although GELT are starting a children's group that will fill this space. We also renewed the agreement with the Church to use the meeting room as their Parish office

General maintenance works completed this year include:

- replacing the window in the meeting room
- removing the fan lights over the front door and hall door
- fitting fire alarms & smoke detectors
- updating the hall safety information
- 5 year electrical safety inspection
- Swing refurbishment

We have also had an asbestos survey which highlighted some asbestos in the cement in the external roof verge undercloaks over the end of the hall. We have a risk assessment & management plan in place which is held in the hall for reference by anyone that should need it.

This year we already have plans to have the hall floor refurbished and (pending the Section 106 funds from the Mulberry development in Deepdale/Broadgate) replacing the hall chairs.

Finally, I would like to thank Cath & Bill for continuing to provide and maintain the hanging baskets, Mark & Diane Howson at the shop for the help with ticket sales and the generous donations from:

- Margaret Stamp from the sale of the Great Easton Calendars
- Cath Lupton from the Line Dancing group
- Roger & Pam Armstrong from the Whist Club