

## **FARTHINGHOE VILLAGE HALL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2017**

The year 2016-2017 has seen considerable change for the village hall. Following the redecoration in the previous year, new doors have been fitted to the hall, making it more secure, and over the last month, the magnificent storage area that you see at the back of the hall has been built. This has considerably improved the environment within the hall, allowing chairs and tables to be stacked away out of sight, whilst still maintaining a pop-up bar area behind the storage wall.

There have been a number of fantastic events in the hall over the past year.

Race Night raised a considerable sum and was a loud, fun night with the final “race” seeing various members of the community taking to their pretend steeds and re-enacting the onscreen battle. The fish and chips were awesome!

The May Day celebrations saw the hall transformed with a riot of colour from the magnificent hand-made paper flowers, garlands and all manner of amazing decorations. We were treated to may pole dancing, face painting and craft making, along with outdoor games and a bouncy castle.

Whilst the Farthinghoe-Down only made minimal profits, it was however a really fun evening, with the addition of the Western-themed Karaoke uncovering some hidden talent within the village.

The annual village show unfortunately suffered from low attendance, due in part to the awful weather but a profit was made, thanks to good raffle ticket sales.

At the AGM in October, there were a few changes to the committee. George Beasley was given an honorary life membership of the village hall committee, in recognition of the many years served as a committee member.

Pete Hampson resigned from the committee after 15 years’ service, of which 10 were as Chairman. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Pete, on behalf of the village, for all of the time and effort he has put into building the village hall and its facilities over such a considerable period.

Ross van Geest also resigned from the committee.

Existing members who continued on the committee were Stephen Bunce (Treasurer), Diane Jones, Ryan Jones, Jon Hampson, Dave Hancock and Pip Clayton.

New members joining the committee were Beste Bragg, Wendy Hancock and Lisa Wenmouth (representing the Church). The Parish Council representation will be done on a rotation basis amongst the councillors.

With the committee in place, Pip Clayton was nominated as Chair and Dave Hancock accepted the role of Clerk.

Jon Hampson subsequently resigned from the committee in January 2017 and in March 2017, we welcomed Jenny Johnston onto the committee.

The committee is working towards improved transparency on the hall activities; agendas, minutes and financial statements are now available on the Parish Council website. The 150 Club has been revitalised in 2017, with the membership increasing significantly. We are revisiting hiring arrangements to create a uniformity across the hirers and to have clear contracts in place. All administration is being tightened up to ensure required information is easily accessible.

Throughout the next year, the Committee will be planning further improvements to make the hall even more attractive to all our users and will be identifying fund raising activities to support these improvements. We have some exciting plans for making it much more of a community asset of which we can all be proud.

I would like to thank all of the committee members, who give up their own time and skills, to run and improve this community facility.

Special thanks go to:

Dave Hancock and Mike Phipps for designing and constructing the storage area. They volunteered their labour throughout, with the only cost being materials.

All of the committee, but Wendy Hancock in particular, for the revitalisation of the 150 Club.

Diane Jones for handling the bookings side of the hall, which can be, at times, a truly thankless task!

Jon Hampson for maintenance of grounds around the hall.

And Stephen Bunce for keeping us on the straight and narrow with regards to funds.

Please continue to support your village hall. We are a charity and whilst our regular hirers help to support the day-to-day running of the hall, we do rely on fund raising activities to keep the facility open and to make improvements aimed at benefitting you, our customers.