

# EAST STOUR VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity no. 301127

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO VILLAGE HALL AGM - 3 MAY 2017

This is the 4th and final year of my chairmanship and we can again record some good progress achieved

**1. The Committee** elected at the last AGM was, however, again under-strength. For the second year running there has been no vice chairman and several vacancies. It is disappointing, though a fact of life, that volunteers seem reluctant to come forward to support community groups. Since the Village Plan and the VAP we've created more interest in the village and increased use of the hall, but we do need villagers to help us. I have repeated my plea in every village newsletter and occasional email circulars etc for people to offer just a few hours here and there. It really is a good opportunity to get to know more villagers and socialise with near neighbours! I've certainly got a lot out of my volunteering and met many lovely people

## 2. Hall Management

- **Hiring Regulations** rewritten and **Application Form** introduced, summarising hirers' responsibilities. These documents are posted on the Hall page on the Village website (*new Website Administrator needed!*). For irregular hirers, a deposit equal to the hire fee is required. If they do not leave the hall as they found it and this causes notable extra work, a deduction of £10 will be made when their deposit is returned. A new microwave oven has been purchased for the kitchen, and First Class Coffee donated a new electric kettle
- The Hall has been registered with HMRC so we can claim **Gift Aid** - this is tax relief on personal donations. I'm very grateful to five villagers who together have donated £1,900 over the last two years and thus we are able to reclaim tax of £475 making the donations worth £2,375 to the hall
- the vacancy for a **Trustee** was filled by Phil Jacques. In response to his query, we established via Dorset Community Action that he is one of four Holding (ie Custodian) Trustees responsible only for holding the lease. The hall Committee members are the Managing Trustees responsible for the day to day running of the hall
- The **village defibrillator** is now fitted on the front wall of the hall, with the list of trained villagers on the adjacent notice board
- **Caretaking** - thanks to Sheila and Rod for checking the hall before hirers' deposits are returned
- **Hire charges** are due to be reconsidered by the hall committee as it will soon be two years since they were increased
- **Moviola** has been an ambitious development for the village, thanks to the hard work of Julia Gould and her supporting team. Whilst this is primarily a village social occasion and fundraising is secondary, Julia donated half the profits for the first season to the hall refurb fund (£400). Hopefully she will donate some of the profits from the second season that has just finished - this included the very successful Moscow Drug Club concert just before Christmas
- **Public Address System** - thanks to Natalie Gilding quickly responding to an offer by the village hall in Poundbury, we accepted their gift of their PA system - two cordless microphones and amplifier that will enliven future raffles etc!
- **Thank yous**. Of course several people have helped throughout the year in the hall management - they quietly get on with their tasks that are essential to keep the hall running smoothly. On behalf of the Committee, I again give thanks to Pauline Robinson our Secretary, Rosanne Jacques our Treasurer, Rod Dowding who continues to do maintenance jobs, cutting the grass, keeping the car park tidy etc, Sheila Squire who deals with the hirings and collecting the fees, and Jess Fitzpatrick, our cleaner (she is currently ill - we sent her a Get Well Soon card recently but unfortunately her illness is ongoing).

## 3. Chairmanship

Thank you for your support over the last four years. When Oliver invited me to take over from him, I felt the refurbishment of the hall would be my focus for a year or two. The first year was taken up with the controversy about what should be done and where the money would come from. Personally, as Committee Chairman, I wanted to be just a pair of hands and did not want to manage the project but two project managers dropped out and there was no alternative but for me to get on with it. Most of the work was done in years two and three, with a good number of enthusiastic helpers initially, but numbers dropped off until, at one stage, only Russell and I were decorating. On another day I was here with only an 83 year old helper. But progress continued, including the removal of flaking artex on the hallway ceiling and light wells -

a risky task that had to be done very carefully due to the asbestos content. Penny Brentnall came up with design advice (including, for example, managing all the curtains and blinds) and Phil Brown did several of the more specialist tasks and, with Russell and others, we gradually worked through the 50 or so jobs on the project plan.

Unfortunately my cardiac arrest two months ago has got in the way of finishing the project, but only the redecoration of the toilets and the installation of wall lights in the main hall are outstanding. If funds can be raised in the future, I'm sure some patio doors leading onto a patio on the far side on the main hall would significantly improve it and perhaps we would get our money back via wedding bookings and other such functions.

Finally, I am grateful to Mary for stepping into the Chair - an excellent appointment and I hope she has a peaceful and successful term and I know she will be well supported by the committee.

David Little  
Chairman, Village Hall Committee