

EAST STOUR VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity no. 301127

REFURBISHMENT REPORT TO VILLAGE HALL AGM - 3 MAY 2017

1. The Refurbishment Programme

- In summary, we've achieved the upgrade of the hall's condition - thanks to a small handful of volunteers - with all the hardest tasks completed. Only the toilets remain to be redecorated. Do you remember what the hall was like before we started on the Project Plan?
- From a starting point of no fundraising at all in the year before we started the Refurb, we have had several successful fund raising events to help finance the refurbishment:
 - 2 Vintage Tea Parties
 - 2 Sponsored Walks (which raised over £1,800)
 - Howden Jones Folk Music Concert
 - Christmas Bingo
 - Plant Sale
- All excellent occasions for socialising, and rewarding for the organisers raising £4,300. Thank you so very much to those who took the initiative to organise and run these events
- Other donations came from the Village Action Plan, TESS, The Stour Villages Market and Moviola, Bridget Ewen's Greeting Card Sales, East Stour Parish Council, and several personal donations (some anonymous including a magnificent £1,000 for the acoustic panels in the Main Hall). Our grateful thanks to each of these contributors. We also had an initial allocation of £3,000 from our own Hall funds
- We succeeded in (only) two grant applications. First - Dorset County Council (Cllr Cattaway gave us £800 from his Local Organisations' grants budget). Second - The Big Lottery (£10,000 towards our heating costs of £14,000) thanks again to Daphne Emptage for the many hours spent compiling the very long application!
- Altogether I'm proud to say we have raised - and spent - over £25,000! A staggering sum of money unforeseen when we started

Some of the jobs last year included

- Loft insulation over the stage and main hall - surely the worst job of all! - was done by village newcomer Mark Lockley and I
- Acoustic panels. Phil and Russell built these and fitted them with Guy's help. There's 16 of them on the ceiling plus three more on the end wall.
- Heating installation. This cost £14,000 and ended with a dispute with TES over the cost of the wall heaters. These had to be changed after we found the original ones would glow orange and be a distraction to those on the stage and also the audience. The replacements raised the issue of their handling oncosts of 30%. To settle the dispute we negotiated an ex gratia payment of £400.
- The stage. This was interesting after Penny found that it should be matt black everywhere - the floor, ceiling, walls, lampshades and on-stage curtains!

I had hoped to complete the whole Refurbishment project during my term in the Chair, but my cardiac arrest two months ago has got in the way and I have to leave the last tasks - the redecoration of the three toilets - to, hopefully, other volunteers.

I have to make a plea for a volunteer to run the Sponsored Walk in August. Julia has organised two and raised over £1,800 - a marvellous achievement. But she gave notice last year that she would be standing down. So far we have not found her replacement. Can you try and find a volunteer please?

I'm very grateful to the villagers have helped with the work, but I must thank particularly Penny Brentnall, Russell Haddon and Phil Brown for their continuing help - and keeping me on track in the dark times when there were so few volunteers!

I think that those of us here tonight particularly appreciate how significant a good hall is as the main focal point in our village, and we will do our best to maintain it.

David Little
Chairman, Village Hall Committee