

## *Chairmans Report*

**1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

The Village Hall has had a good year with the closing balance totalling £22,026 which is up £3,136 from the previous year.

Our biggest income comes from the Montessori Nursery. The business was sold last summer by Marianne Clarkson and the new owner extended their week by one day so now hire the hall Tuesday to Friday. Since then the nursery intake has increased quite considerably and so they have asked to hire the hall on a Monday but the committee decided to decline this request as we have a ladies Monday morning dance class and monthly afternoon teas, which are both attended by villagers and we felt it was important that the villagers maintain the use of these facilities.

The rest of our income has come from private bookings and regular events.

### **Events**

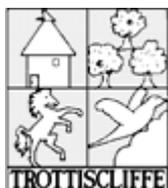
A barn dance was organised for the first time which was a sell out and so will be repeating this in September this year.

Other events included a quiz night, summer fun day and the annual Christmas Dinner, and with the exception of the dinner dance, all events made a reasonable profit.

For this year we held another new event and that was last weekend's Easter Egg Hunt, where children had to find clues around the village to claim their prize, as well as teas and cakes for the adults. It was very well attended and made over £200.

To celebrate the wedding of Harry and Meghan we will be holding drinks outside of the village hall, weather permitting, by the beacon with champagne, hopefully being donated by the Quarry in thanks for the village putting up with the mud they regularly leave across the road by their entrance.

We are also trying to organise ballroom dancing lessons but unfortunately we are so far unable to find a teacher, but will keep searching.



## **Expenditure**

The biggest expense was the repainting of the whole hall, toilets, kitchen etc. @ £2,200.

We have also replaced the back windows and replaced the blackout curtains at the back of the stage.

## **Asbestos Report**

A member of the public who had booked the hall for a party notified the committee of their suspicion of asbestos under the stage. Therefore we commissioned a full report by a specialist company owned by Danny Fincham, a resident in the village and who waived his fee. This report concluded that there is asbestos in the building but it was only found in the roof and recommended that we leave it alone. A full report is available if anyone wishes to see it.

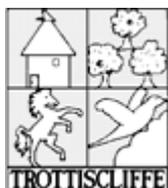
## **Maintenance**

There is an own going problem with a water leak. We are currently trying to locate it as our water bills have doubled. The water board have been down and we have checked with the Tennis Club but so far with no results. The outside meter continues to turn despite no water appliances being used. We have now requested Souther Water to investigate to find the problem

The fluorescent lights are to be replaced, the sensor in the men's loo to be finally fixed as well as the outside security light, but other than that we have no plans for any major works this year as there are none needed, a part from a possible large leak.

## **Committee Members**

In February Dave Evans resigned as chairman and treasure. I took over as chairman and Deborah Lawton as interim treasurer. We advised for new committee members and we have welcomed Anne Gough, Paul Nash, Jacqui Peaches and Darren Smith on to the committee. However, we were still unable to find a treasurer living in the village so we have had to look outside and can confirm the appointment of John O'Donnell who, having retired from the City aged 50, is more than qualified for the position. John Fahey will continue to audit our annual



accounts and we thank him for this. It was also decided to appoint a vice-chairman and Ian Mill volunteered for this role.

Chrissie Bellman and Deborah Lawton have now taken on the responsibility for bookings. Ian Mills who joined us last year will continue with entertainment, Mark Sheppard is in charge of maintenance and Katie Clerk as secretary.

So all in all a great team going forward.

### **Donations**

In conclusion, the Village Hall has a very healthy bank balance and we foresee that with the Nursery now hiring the hall for an extra day we believe that 2018 revenues will increase by approximately 20%, and with no major expenditures planned we have decided that while we still have the regular income from the nursery we will donate any profits made from our regular events to local charities.