

## EYNHAM VILLAGE HALL REPORT – 2016/2017

The main achievement in the past year has been the installation of a bigger, better and far more efficient cooker in the kitchen to replace the one that had been the subject of many complaints over the years. This was completed in July somewhat later than intended but it wasn't without its difficulties. However, it appears that everyone that has used it is very pleased with the result.

Bookings over the year have held up well in spite of increasing the hire rates for non-regular users in August 2014. Another increase has just come into effect this month which we hope will have some impact on our revenue as it is still very difficult to maintain a profit. The Income and Expenditure Account for our financial year ended 31 July 2016 shows a loss of £1,178.66 which includes only part of the costs associated with the new cooker. Also, the Quinquennial Inspection has just been carried out and we face some significant expenditure to keep the premises up to standard.

We have, in addition, raised the hire charges very slightly for our regular users which we are trying to do in a gentle way year on year as they had been left for many years with no increases at all. We managed to persuade them to reduce their use to one room only at a much reduced rent

To add to our difficulties the Police who have had a lease at £5,000 p.a. for the permanent use of two of our smaller rooms for many years have now terminated their lease due to financial cuts and subsequent reorganisation. This concerned us a lot, not only because of the loss of income, but also because of the lack of a police presence in the community at large. We therefore offered them the use of just one of the rooms at a much reduced rent and that is now continuing so that PCSO's Helen and Sandra will still be active around the village.

During the year we acquired a new floor cleaner which the caretaker has found to be very effective, and we also purchased a pressure washer which he has used to good effect in cleaning the dark stains on the walls around the perimeter of the children's play area. He has also continued using the steam cleaner bought last year for keeping our upholstered chairs clean.

The annual Community Day in June was organised for the first time by the Village Hall Management Committee and will continue as such, but will now be held every second year. So the next one will be in June 2018.

Looking towards the forthcoming year, we need to hold back on any significant expenditure mainly because of the Quinquennial Inspection and now that the building is more than 15 years old, some larger expenditure than normal is required on general maintenance. However, we have also created a 'wish list' of a dozen or so prioritized items that we need to consider in our future plans for constant improvements.

Finally, my thanks to all the Committee for their contributions towards the running of the Village Hall and especially to our booking clerk Rachel Cassar, our caretaker David Syphas and our voluntary secretary Eve Hollis.

**ROY WILKINSON**

Chair - Village Hall Management Committee

April 2017