

SHUTFORD VILLAGE HALL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - May 2015

Activity in the Hall during the 2014-15 year has been interesting with the well attended 60th Anniversary Tea Party, which carried details of the proposed new building and a splendid display of our history since inception in 1954. The user groups have remained unchanged during the year, with the Mums and Toddlers still our most regular user. The Church has increased its bookings, holding fund raising events and the children's 'Messy Church' fun days.

The committee has seen a few changes when Athene Duffield and Rose Hancock resigned their positions towards the end of the year and we must thank both of them for their support and help over the years. Athene was our Deputy Chair and I must thank Gordon Freeman for stepping in to replace her. We look forward to welcoming Helen Gibbs to the committee when she takes on the roll of representing the Parish Council from Athene. The committee met its usual four times during the year and we were very pleased to have Lynne Parsons, now replacing Margaret Holloway as the Women's Institute representative. Our regular cleaner, Gus Freeman, has left to study at University and was replaced by Nathaniel Sabin at the end of last year, so we have many new faces on the team now.

Maintenance has been restricted to essential repairs comprising a couple of minor electrical issues and a sticking main entrance door that caused not one but two door handles to be ripped off their mounting plates.

The most important topic that has occupied the minds and time of our committee during the whole year has been the progress of the project towards a new Village Hall. Following a majority decision by the committee to support replacement of the hall with a new building on the same site, planning permission was applied for and obtained earlier this year with many letters of support having been received by the Planning Officer. Funding for the project has also progressed with a pledge of £100,000, some grant aid from the Doris Field Trust, a comedy magic show by 'Carl and Dave' plus an increasing flow of money coming from the easyfundraising website and a number of other donations. We hope that the bulk of the remaining funding will be raised through a Public Works Loan of £150,000 to be repaid through a precept on our Council Tax. Work on this is currently on-going and the committee would urge all our parishioners to support it through the survey shortly to be conducted on behalf of the Parish Council. If this is successful, then the Trustees of our charity will also be able to release funds currently held in reserves specifically associated with the existing building.

The on-going fund raising activities will supplement our finances and we must thank Margaret Holloway, Joan Wright and Athene for their work with the 100+ Club, the Christmas Bingo, plus all the villagers for the efforts and generosity with the Festival, which benefits the Hall, the Church and the Community Association.

Roger Bancroft – Chairman
19th May 2015