

**COXHOE
VILLAGE
HALL**



**Coxhoe Village Hall Association Annual
Report April 2016**



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Introduction

This is my third year as Chairman of Coxhoe Village Hall association and I am extremely proud of the achievements of a small but hard working committee and staff.

Since taking on the running of the village hall we embarked on a programme of refurbishment to make the hall a more attractive proposition for the community to use and enjoy.



Achievements

I am delighted to report that we have had another sustained year of improvement. This year has seen us achieve the following:-

A grant of £31,760 from Biffa Award provided the funds to installation of a new energy efficient heating system,

This could not have been achieved without the match funding of £3,250 From Coxhoe Community Partnership.

The Biffa Award grant was from Landfill Tax funds and to receive it there was a requirement to register as an approved environmental body. We are now registered with Entrust – Enrolment No. 320207 and have an Environmental/Green Housekeeping Policy in place with nominated co-ordinator.

The new Grade A heating system allied to the newly insulated loft and cavity wall insulation will assist the Village Hall in reducing its significant utility running costs.

New stage backing curtains have been installed with a 50 / 50 split of cost between the Village Hall and The Village Hall Hop.



New carpet has been fitted to the stairs, landing and side entrance hall thanks to a £1,000 donation by the Ladies Club- a long standing user group of the village hall. Through their endeavours they raised the money to improve safety on the stairs. .

Re-decoration throughout. – We have tapped into free resources via Groundwork UK an organisation helping people back into work. Volunteers work for free and have painted and cleaned and hugely improved the aesthetics’ of the hall.

The Bar Area has seen the recent addition of a new bar flap and door. Bar shutters for security will be installed in the near future. The flap and the shutters will be delivered with the financial support of the Parish Council.

Further improvements have been made to the Reading Room with the addition of further book cases- this continues to provide much needed income.

The Parish Council in response to the Village Plan continue to assist and support the running of the Village Hall with a £4,000 grant.



Councillors Blakey, Williams and Plews provided funding for much needed improvements to the toilet areas-hand washing water heaters, toilet roll holders and soap dispensers have been installed.

We have secured £3,000 from the Bernard Sunley Foundation towards the cost of a refurbishment of the ground floor kitchen. Clearly this is not sufficient and two other funding applications have been submitted to allow for these essential improvements. The Parish Plan clearly identifies a Luncheon club as a key objective. A new kitchen will allow us to look to take a step closer and assist other groups to widen their activities.

A total of £10,381 has been spent on building refurbishments - £5,300 of this from our own income.

We secured a grant of £8320 from the Coalfield Regeneration Trust for a part time manager, and following an arduous search we secured the services of Claire Anderson who has assisted the management committee deliver much of the above. The funding finishes in April 2016 and unfortunately we are not in a position to make this post permanent and Claire leaves us this month. On behalf of the committee we thank Claire for her positive contribution. The loss of the manager means an increase in work load for the Management committee until finances improve or more funding becomes available.

Financially our treasurer Barbara Hepplewhite continues to do a fantastic job meticulously steering the committee on all matters financial, our sincere appreciation goes to Barbara.

Our end of year accounts have been audited and are being presented to the AGM before being submitted to the Charities Commission. This year we have again managed to balance our books whilst delivering significant improvements to the Village Hall.

This year has seen us raise the prices for the users for the first time since the new committee came in over three years ago. Unfortunately energy prices continue to rise and if we are to improve the hall this is a regrettable but necessary increase.

Our user groups

Bird Auction – Is a packed monthly event

Casual crafts are knitting together really well !!

Computer Drop –In Centre is used daily.

Coxhoe Quilters are a new addition to our activities

Durham Police Male Voice Choir, is an enthusiastic group of people and a real positive addition to the hall.

History Group provides a range of activities and presentations on the area's rich heritage.

Ladies Club provide a variety of activities and annual fundraising event.

Martial Arts – The offer has increased to include Taekwondo and Krav Maga groups.

Memory Lane Coffee Morning meets in the Reading Room monthly

NHS Child Welfare and Stop Smoking Clinics supporting the NHS initiatives

Platinum PPT continues to use our facilities on a regular basis.

Pilates group is going well

Reading Room – Ran by a dedicated group of volunteers and provide a service to our community.

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers continue to grow and are in need of adult leaders to support its development.

Slimming World is well attended on a weekly basis.

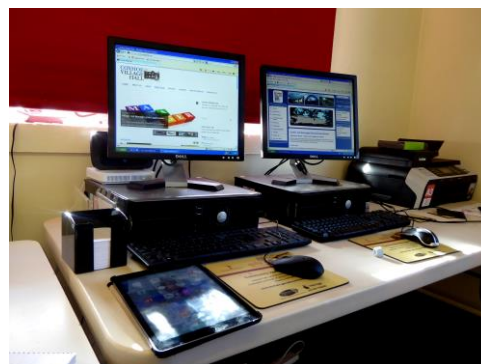
Tea Dance – Numbers have grown and this is now a well-attended user group. It's great to see them not having to dance in their coats as they have for many years previously because of our lack of heating.

Parent/Toddlers Group – Has this year been taken on by the Village Hall and plans are in place to develop and improve the offer.

Village Hall Hop – A fortnightly event with functions in between. The team who run this group help in many ways to support the hall and have become an integral part of the hall, bringing people from all over the country to Coxhoe.

Coxhoe Parish Council – the Parish Clerk is based at the Hall and regular meetings are held.

Coxhoe Community Partnership hold their meetings at the hall



Events

There have been a good variety of social events over the year including Brass Band concerts, Choir Concerts, Ceilidhs, Sequence Dances, Regional Rock and Roll Finals, Christmas Concert, Craft Fairs, Wedding Receptions, Christenings, Funeral Teas, Anniversaries and Birthday Parties.



An Open Morning was held in March to give the community and funders the opportunity to see the progress made and activities on offer- samples being provided by some user groups. Information on display included the Hall's history and plans for future development.

Committee

The current committee is a small but hard working bunch and I thank you all for your support and commitment.

The role of secretary is a tough one and I cannot and dare not fail to mention Nicola Dodsworth who continues to work long and hard for the village hall.

Staff

Derek Orton – Caretaker : A hall favourite with user groups, this year Derek has had a hip operation and we are delighted to see he has made a full recovery and is back to work

Tony Rowe – Tony positively contributed to the Hall and unfortunately resigned from his post due to external work commitments.

Nicola Bamling – Joined us as a replacement for Tony and has settled in really well.

Casual Bar staff – Have supported us through the various and varied events we have held in the hall. Weddings, Funerals, Christenings, Party's, Fairs, Choir and Band concerts, Christmas Carol Concerts to name but a few.

We thank the team for their contribution.

Volunteers

Friends of the village hall

Small in number but we as a committee appreciate the help they provide. Ian Forster continues to update and improve our website for which we thank him.

Challenges for 2016 and beyond

We must make a concerted effort to encourage people to actively get involved with the running of the Village Hall. We have a large and increasing size of community and undoubtedly within the

community there must be people with skills or just energy and time who could contribute something to improving the hall for the benefit of the community.

The current committee is too small and needs to be freshened up with people who are prepared to run with actions and get involved.

Funding for an extra member of staff to provide clerical/administrative support is needed to lighten the pressures on the management committee.

Ambitious plans for a building extension and further improvements are currently out to consultation. This will include a Heritage Centre, much needed lift, improved kitchen, toilets, storage, office space.

Conclusions

The committee are proud to deliver another positive annual report which has built year on year in improving the facility for the benefit of the community.

Paul Dodsworth

Chairman Coxhoe Village Hall Association

