



**Chairman's Annual Report March 2017**



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This is my fourth year as Chairman and I am extremely proud of the achievements of a small but hard working committee and staff.

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

I am delighted to report that we have had a sustained year of improvement. This year has seen us achieve a massive amount consistent with the aims of our charity.

### Key Achievements

Following a regrettable break in we have focused on Improvements to the security of our buildings security. Alarm and CCTV system have been installed along with Shutters to the bar area . This was made possible with the support of the Parish Councils £4,000 grant for 2016.



Building on the significant improvements to our energy efficiency last year with the Installation of a new energy efficient heating system, the new Grade A heating system allied to the insulated loft and cavity wall insulation we were overwhelmed by the support we received from many quarters in our bid for solar panels via the Marks and Spencer fund. These measures will combine and assist the Village Hall reduce its utility running costs.

We were delighted this year to accept the assistance of Wates Construction who supported the village hall in their Community Week, Their employees and subcontractors attended every day. They decorated the main hall. Provided new lighting to the Lounge / Bar area. New Sockets and dado trunking in the IT room. Additional sockets in most rooms, fixed our urinal. Provided a gate to the side of the hall to assist in security. New ceiling and lighting to the stairs. Eased doors, repaired the rotting electric cupboard floor. And donated £500 to the Village Hall, which is to be used to purchase a much needed fridge for the bar.



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

- We reported last year that we had secured £3,000 from Bernard Sunley for improvements to the kitchen, we were delighted to secure additional funding from
- Awards for All £10,000
- County Durham Community Foundation: £5,000

We are pleased to report the kitchen is now complete along with new flooring to the supper room, and is fully functional we are now actively looking at providing a Luncheon club to meet the aspirations of both Parish Plan one and two.



### Grants and Donations:

- M & S Energy : £9966 paid for installation of Solar Panels. Apart from saving energy there will also be payback for the amount of energy generated through government scheme.
- Wates Group: £500 donation will be used for new Bar Fridge. A team of volunteers spent a week at the hall carrying out a range of improvements including electrics upgrade, repairs and redecoration.
- Parish Council grant 2016/17 : £4,000 grant and £1k allowance paid for security measures - bar shutters, security alarm, CCTV and Bar Flap.
- Banner Group £100.00

All in all we have reinvested monies from our own income and had financial support, with grants and donations received from various sources.

Financially our treasurer Barbara Hepplewhite has continued 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 just been successfully audited and submitted to the Charities Commission

This year we have again managed to balance our books whilst delivering significant improvements to the Village Hall.

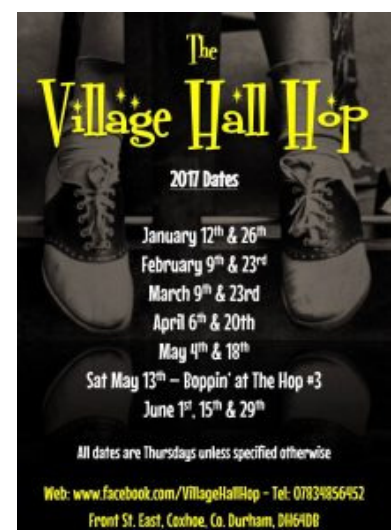
We have concluded the transfer of the hall to the Parish Council and a lease back to the Management Committee of the Village Hall. This will ensure that the Hall is kept for the interests of the community for perpetuity.

### User Groups

Pilates group is going well

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

Tea Dance – Numbers have grown and this is now a well-attended user group.



**Martial Arts** – The offer has increased to include new Taekwondo and Krav maga groups.

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

**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.

**Toddlers Group** – Is work in progress and plans are in place to develop and improve the offer.

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

**Casual crafts** are knitting together really well !!

**Reading Room** – Ran by a dedicated group of volunteers, providing a service to our community and raising £1,500 for our funds.



## **Committee**

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

## **Staff**

Derek Orton – Caretaker A hall favourite with user groups, has done a great job for which we thank him.

Tony Rowe – Tony returned to the village hall and has positively contributed to the Hall.

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 concerts, Christmas carol concerts to name but a few.

We thank the team for their contribution.

## **Volunteers**

Ian Forster continues to update and improve our website for which we thank him.

The **Friends of the Village Hall** are small in number but we as a committee appreciate the help they provide.

## **Challenges for 2017 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. This was my note for last year and remains current this year.

We must secure funding for a coordinator / manager to lighten the pressures on the volunteer management committee.

We must continue to submit funding applications to improve the hall. Which include the potential of extending the building and installing a lift.

Nicola and I resigned our positions at Christas due to our inability to keep pace with the aspirations of some committee members, with frequency of meetings, amount of time required to come prepared for meetings. On a personal level this was unsustainable.

The Village hall committee in its current guise need to understand unless it can fund full time support they will need to temper their aspirations and run with one project, deliver it well and move on to the next.

There were domino resignations following on from Nicola and I which brought pressure to bear on an already over stretched committee. This resulted in an emergency meeting which has got the committee to the AGM.

## Conclusion

The committee should be rightly proud of themselves to deliver yet another positive annual report which has built year on year in improving the facility for the benefit of the community.

It is imperative that the Village Hall increase it's committee membership with people who are willing to get involved. We must as a priority secure support to manage the day to day running of the hall.

Paul Dodsworth

Chairman Coxhoe Village Hall

