



Coxhoe Village Hall Chairmans Report

July 2018



Chairmans Report – Coxhoe Village Hall July 2018

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

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

Energy Efficiencies

Building on the significant improvements we secured via various funding applications. Our energy efficiency measures installed two years ago 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. The benefits from our solar panels which we secured following a fantastic show of support from the community have provided a very real and tangible benefit to the Energy Bills for the Village Hall.

Support from Wates Construction Group.

People may recall Wates provided resources and materials last year and supported us During their Community Week. As an employee of Wates I have been able to make an application for support from the Wates Charitable trust, known as Wates Giving who give away over a million pounds a year to Charities and good causes, in the communities in which they work.

As such we have prepared an application and submitted the same for a through floor lift. Which would provide much needed access to all, to the upstairs of the building. It will be considered by the Wates family Board in November.



Support from others

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, for which we are extremely grateful.

Sadly this year Coxhoe community Partnership under Ian Forster's stewardship. Decided they had fulfilled its role in the community. The village of Coxhoe should be extremely grateful for the many years of delivering fantastic projects which our community enjoy to this day, Play park, Sensory Garden, The memorial garden to the front of the village hall, to name but a few.

The Partnership kindly donated the balance of their funds to the village hall, for which we are grateful.

We applied for a grant from the CO OP Community Fund for improvements to the Playgroup Facilities. We were delighted to receive £2,200 Which has allowed us to buy toys and equipment to improve this long established user group.

Partnership Working

We are delighted to welcome Karen Williams to the Village Hall. Karen's appointment was only made possible by the Village Hall and the Parish Council working together. And making Karen a shared resource. Karen will assist the Management team with invoicing, accounts, bookings and general running of the Village Hall.

Accounts

Barbara Hepplewhite, I thank both personally and on behalf of the Village Hall management committee, for remaining involved with the treasurers role and persevering with us until we got Karen in post. We are pleased to advise that our accounts have been audited and submitted to the Charities Commission. Thank you to David Nichol for again auditing our accounts for free. We are super pleased to confirm that this year we have both balanced our books and managed to build up a reserve of circa £12,000. This level of reserve is still below that recommended by the Charities commission for an organisation of our size, but represents a 30% betterment on last year's accounts balance.

User Groups

We continue to be amazed at the numbers and diversity of people and activities using the village hall, a flavour of which are below:-

Pilates

Scouts and Beavers

Tea Dance

Martial Arts

Village Hall Hop – A fortnightly event with functions in between. Sadly this user group has had to cease, due to pressures on their organisers, On behalf of the Village Hall we thank Emma and Richie for their support down the years.

Toddlers Group

Police male voice Choir,

Casual crafts

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

Coxhoe History Group

We are pleased to announce the potential of a dance group who are looking at the Village Hall as a possible venue and are currently assessing interest in this from the community.



We continue to host, Weddings, Birthday's, Funeral's, Dance shows etc.

Committee

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

I dare not fail to mention Nicola Dodsworth our secretary, who resigned from paid employment and now devotes countless hours, to what sometimes can feel like a thankless task. But does so, with a smile and a positive attitude.

Staff

Derek Orton – Caretaker, who is now a village hall stalwart.

Shirley Armstrong – Joined us as a replacement for Tony Rowe 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 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.

Friends of the village hall

Small in number but we as a committee we appreciate the help they provide.

Challenges for 2018 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.

We must continue to submit funding applications to improve the hall. Ambitious plans to increase the Halls size are on hold until the committee is adequately resourced and supported. Should Nicola and I be duly elected again to serve on the Management Committee we must advise that this will be our last year. We have personal plans which we want to go off and enjoy.

It is time for the Wider Community to get involved.

Conclusion

The committee is proud to have delivered another positive annual report. We have made steady controlled progress addressing our reserves deficit, whilst making improvements.

Paul Dodsworth , Chairman Coxhoe Village Hall

