

## **Report of the Management Committee**

The Hall has continued to be well used by a very diverse group of users. In addition to the physical activities of circuit training, Pilates, Skittles and Indoor Rowing we now have a regular class for the more gentle pursuit of Ikebana, which is Japanese for 'living flowers'.

The Hall has also provided the venue for regular meetings of the WI, Young Farmers and the Pony Club and for charitable fund-raising events, most notably for Parkinson's UK which held a very successful Quiz Night and a Sunday lunch during the year. In the addition the Hall has been used by the Frithelstock Indoor Rowing Club for world record challenges at which funds have been raised toward the provision of a Village Defibrillator. Mackie Poole will update you on that position because a decision has been made that the Defibrillator be sited in the old phone box and therefore becomes a Parish Council responsibility. The Village Hall will present a cheque to the Parish Council on behalf of the Rowers for the sum of £ 1,000 which figure was reached shortly after the year end.

In the financial year revenue from Hall rental was fractionally up on the previous year. Together with the generous donation from the '50 Club' (of which more later) these funds covered the Hall's normal running costs and so for another year the Committee has agreed not to increase the hourly charges for renting the Hall.

A decision has also been made that where the Hall has been booked for an event that is principally a charity fund-raiser, and the Bar is open, there will be no charge to rent the Hall, as the Committee feels that as we profit sufficiently from Bar takings we can afford to be charitable as well. Anyone thinking of a charity fund-raiser, should hold it here at this Hall and you will keep more of the monies that you raise. In excess of £3,000 has been raised for charitable purposes by events held at the Hall in the year. In addition a donation of £100 was made by the Hall to the Playing Field committee from the profits from providing the Bar at the Tractor Safari.

The Committee has also decided that because of a pressing need for more storage space at the Hall we will stop using what was called 'the small Committee Room' for meetings and use the main Hall instead. The small room is then going to be fitted with a simple rack for the storage of all the Pilates balls and the tables and table-tennis table will also be moved in there, freeing up much-needed space in the other store-room.

For the purchase of new equipment and any significant improvements to the Hall, we rely on the fund-raising activities organised by the Entertainments Committee, on grant applications and contributions from the Parish Council. During the year slightly more than £5,200 was spent on such capital items (which was £1,500 more than in the prior year). The greatest cost was on new kitchen equipment, including a range cooker and a dishwasher for which we were in receipt of a grant from the Balsdon Trust. These are now installed and the final tidying up of the kitchen will be completed in the next fortnight.

The much greater efficiency of the three new ceiling heaters led to the decision to replace the remaining five heaters at a cost of £1,200. A new Music & PA system was installed for

just over £500 and thanks go to Mark Goldman and Dave Debnam for putting this in place. An ice-maker and wine cooler were bought for the Bar, a pop-up marquee and a new BBQ for outside events and new blinds and two large white boards for inside the Hall. All these smaller items in total amounted to £ 850.

Some of you may have noted that whilst last year we had a surplus of over £3,500 this year we have a deficit of £1,500 but our finances are actually in pretty good shape. The difference is largely a result of timing differences because we account on a Receipts and Payments basis. Last years figures were flattered by the receipt of a £ 2,000 grant that came in before the year-end but which we didn't spend until this year. Matching the receipt and expenditure on just that item alone would have reduced last years surplus to £1,500 and given us a surplus of £ 500 this year. However, there were other timing differences as well. The profit on Events and the Bar looks to have fallen from £ 3,500 to £ 2,500 but that was principally because there was no Quiz in the financial year, the previous one being in March 2013 and the recent one being in April 2014. Also last year we kept most raffle proceeds whereas this year we donated them to charity.

There was a small real reduction in Bar profitability because of less private events and also the margins are down slightly, so to for the first time in several years, we will be having a modest increase in wine prices.

Our capital spending plans are more modest for the coming year. The largest single expenditure we anticipate is from the decision to remove the mud and grass in the rear car-park and put down some scalpings to give a firmer surface. This will happen when we have a good dry-spell. Otherwise we are looking mainly at maintenance issue. The main car-park wall still needs some more attention, the cracks in the external walls need to be repointed and painted and there is further painting required internally, particularly the ceiling. .

Some thanks are due. Firstly, as you may have seen from some notices around the Hall, the '50 Club' has reached the milestone of 25 years and in that time they have donated over £ 20,000 to the Hall. This significant annual contribution enables us to keep the Hall rental charges at a modest level. Thanks are therefore due to the organisers, Gale Riddell and Michael Hearn who started the Club, to Steve Beer and Mike Baker who followed on and to Jenny Hearn and Michael Short who have continued the good work. Thanks also to all the people of the Parish who participate.

Thanks are also due to Maureen and Arthur for cleaning and caretaking at the Hall and to Dave Debnam for doing the maintenance jobs. Thanks also to Mel Goldman for all those hours spent searching out bargains for the Bar and finally to all the members of the Entertainments Committee for their hard work over the year.

15 April 2014