

# Edgmond Village Hall Management Committee

## Chairman's Statement

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

What a Year!

Not so much in a dramatic sense but more in that the plans we set in motion 4 years ago have more or less come to fruition.

We make plans, we agree plans, we implement plans – all this takes an enormous amount of effort. Then if all goes well before we know it we have got used to how things now are and we can barely remember how things were before we changed things.

Well things did go well and its easy to forget how much has changed in the past year.

New classes in the new hall

New classes in the old hall

New kitchen full of equipment and being used in preference to the old kitchen

Bar operating with a healthy surplus also with new equipment

New users booking so many parties some people have observed 'have we started up a party business'.

Culminating in Dan and Hayley's recent wedding where everything except the legal ceremony was conducted at our village hall – blessing, meal, bucking bronco, photos in the grounds, meal, bar, dancing till midnight.

Our grounds team work quietly in the background and yet their work makes such a big impact on so many of our visitors – a special thanks to all of the grounds team who were I'm sure instrumental in attracting so many bookings.

Deliberately I commented last year that we would be slowing the pace in terms of projects – so in a year of consolidation nothing dramatic on that front but lots of equipment purchases and detail improvements. It has been good to be able to make purchases without thinking about significantly denting reserves.

And of course more users means more work. For Janis in particular and she has been truly marvellous not just with bookings but organising her own events too.

The Events Team too – a full year of running the bar for hirers and for our own events.

What all this means is that income has shot up to over £30k.

Two consequences of this are that hiring the village hall now pays the bills with a little left over for projects and secondly with volunteering still very active we are building up reserves.

Not to the extent that we can tackle expensive projects like the car park using available cash but we do none-the-less have funds building up for refurbishing the main hall, storage improvements and the bar plus other projects and we are looking at a grant for the car park.

As always I thank the dedicated work of our staff, Teresa and David and the hard work of the committee. Great to have committee members taking away and tackling purchasing projects themselves.

My thanks to everyone who continues to support our village hall in whatever capacity and continue to be most generous:

Particularly all the contributors to the auction held by the Lion and Derek Longstaff. The auction held for the benefit of the village hall and other charities again raised a considerable sum for which we are very grateful. Harper Adams in particular for their support with help, various items and regular grass cutting of the field with detailing of course by our grounds team.

For the coming year the focus is now on improving the older parts of the building and we look forward to making some noticeable improvements there.

I think that our village hall plays a big part in how villagers view their village and the quality of life in Edgmond. It is rewarding by looking at the timetable to see how full of life our village hall is at present and I hope that the teams of people that make the village hall work as well as it does presently are able to help that continue.

Thank you all for your continued support.