

Granborough Village Hall Committee

Secretary's Report for Year 2017/2018

We currently have 8 Trustees but need a minimum of 11. During the last year both Freda Graham and Steph McDonagh resigned due to ill health, our Chairman, Rev Jim Gorringe retired and moved away and Sarah Sutton left for personal reasons. All were thanked for their work as Trustees. I am also standing down as a Trustee but will continue to support the hall with events such as the Open Garden weekend and the annual produce show. Fortunately Sarah Freshwater has agreed to become a Trustee and Secretary and Patrick Bartley has also joined us recently. We are extremely grateful to both of them but actively continue to seek new members.

Our responsibilities are to maintain the hall and grounds to an acceptable standard. The hall is used by many local organizations for meetings, regular clubs and special events. It is used by the Parish Council for their meetings, by the church in the absence of a church hall and as a polling station. It is also hired out to non-Residents.

We continue with the restoration project but unfortunately have not advanced very much during the past year. Our appointed Surveyor, John Nettleton has finalised the plans to reduce the costs to a more achievable level of about £150K and has submitted a planning application although we have not yet received a response from AVDC. He also submitted the plans to several builders for tender. Unfortunately these have come back in the region of £250K. We are currently reviewing the plans to reduce them down to essential works only. Preparations for grant applications have been made but until a quotation has been accepted we cannot proceed. It is clear however that money is not readily available anymore and the maximum available would be £100K. We currently have about £25K in the restoration account after nearly 5 years of hard fundraising, mostly from local residents. We also received generous donations from the Charter Fayre committee and the Parish Council.

The hiring fees remained the same. Our fund raising events have mainly been held to raise money for the restoration fund but also to cover any shortfall in maintenance costs. These events were varied and organised by different Trustees and included a plant sale, the Produce and Handicraft Show, a coffee morning, quiz night, a Christmas craft fayre and a music evening. We also have great support from non-Trustees such as Karl McWhirter who organised bingo and disco events and a young resident, Ella Birch who organised a fundraising afternoon tea event as part of her D of E challenge.

The Trustees continued to maintain the hall and grounds with a working party of Trustees clearing the grounds in the autumn. We are grateful to Brian Sear who keeps the hall clean and carries out minor repairs and the Williams family who mow the grass.

Our main aim for the forthcoming year is to proceed with the restoration plans. Meanwhile we continue our fund raising with a planned royal wedding lunch, open gardens weekend, a plant sale and produce show.