

VILLAGE HALL REPORT FOR 2014-2015

This year witnesses the continuing use of the Village Hall as one of this village's main community assets. Local organisations and outside functions have realised almost a continuous usage and growth throughout the year. Again, as with the previous year, the licensed bar has been one of the most beneficial attractions. We have our own rota of staff to assist with its running. There is no let up with requests for the services that the Hall's Trustees are able to offer our community.

Regular uses are for the 'Keep Fit' exercise class on a Friday and the Folk Nights on a Wednesday, both followings show that around 90% are village people. Bingo and Whist continue to be equally popular with mixed village and outsider following. Thursday afternoons now see a weekly T-dance though this has only limited following from Moggerhanger. As normal the hall has provided several major functions throughout the year with cooked meals, slide shows, dances and quizzes. Several of our village functions have completely sold out well in advance of the date, which is fantastic.

In the continued pursuance of requests of the village we have now been able to purchase the land adjacent to the hall to allow us to aim for additional car parking and space and areas for outside and recreational functions. This was seen as a 'once in a lifetime' project. Road parking, although invariably possible during major village events, does create terrible hazards to all users. Certain planning procedures are being undertaken at the moment to alleviate the problem. Obviously, this is all taking a lot of organising and further fund-raising although some preliminary preparation is continuing as fast as we can. Gates and fencing have been installed along with over 100 metres of hedgerows for the entire length of the field. Hedging has also been planted alongside adjacent property and to the rear of the hall. This will not only be attractive but will provide a natural 'green' border to the new patio area.

Safety aspects around and in the hall have continued as required. One of the most recent and annoying costs we have had to endure is to remove the new extension's fanlight and tiles. This has been giving an on-going and worsening problem for some years with water leakage as a result of incorrect design specification and roof tiles. The whole roof has now been re-tiled and felted to a spec. to match the roof angle.

The Hall's website continues with full details of projects, functions and reports being added to on a regular and steady basis. The website now also runs a Google Calendar which is accessible by anyone needing to check on availability. The trustees keep this updated continually but it is still necessary to make any final booking through the normal channels.

Our thanks go out to Tricia Turned who has supported and advised on many dealings with CBC. We also thank the Parish Council for their donation when land purchase was being transacted. Last but not least, our thanks also go out to the villagers themselves who have given us their undivided support and encouragement, through their generous donations which have covered the majority of land purchase costs.

The Hall's AGM is to be held on Sat 25th April at 7:00 pm at the hall. This is to be followed by a light snack and social. Everyone is invited to attend.

Chris Bashford (VH Chairman)