

## Chair Report to the AGM 2013

Julie Gripper stood down as the Chair of the Hall committee at the last Annual General Meeting in May 2012. Julie had been Chair of the committee for five years and Secretary prior to that for the previous five years. We are very grateful for her invaluable leadership during that time. Another member, Robert Neave, stood down after ten years on the committee. His practical skills in helping to maintain the fabric of the hall will be greatly missed. We have been joined on the committee by two new trustees; June Wood, (June has been involved with the Village Hall committee for many years as a representative of the Parish Council) whose experience in local government will be put to good use and Keith Norman, the representative of the South Cheriton United Football Club; a role long required of the committee since the SCUFC is the most prominent user of the hall.

Even though we have had some recent heavy costs in maintenance, the Hall maintains a healthy financial balance. The floor which had buckled the previous year (2011/12) was rectified prior to this winter. A new schedule for heating and procedures including the addition of a boost switch in the main body of the hall obviates the necessity for hall users to adjust the heating programmer. This appears to have been successful in maintaining a level of heat and humidity to preclude the distortion of the floor.

Oil continues to be a very expensive commodity at the moment and we are investigating ways of reducing the Halls expenditure on fuel. Charges were reviewed for heating but we are conscious of trying to keep the Hall affordable for all and we continue to keep our charges at the level set in 2008. This allows the Hall to be competitive with our immediate neighbours in the surrounding villages. We feel that this decision has been vindicated in that we have had slightly more interest in the hiring of the Hall.

Our Deputy Chair, Chris Bailward was instrumental in setting up the Horsington Village Hall website which is now up and running. <http://horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk> Also on <http://www.hallshire.com> It has proved its worth in that we have had enquiries already.

The car park has had the potholes filled in. We must thank Wessex Water for providing the material and the South Cheriton Garage for providing the manpower to do so.

The Hall triennial electrical inspection has recently been carried out and apart from a few small discrepancies was satisfactory. The Hallmark inspection by the Community Council, also triennial, is due shortly.

Our fundraiser this year took place on the day before St Patrick's Day so it was appropriate that the theme was the Irish national day. The hall was decked out in Irish colours and the dinner menu was appropriately Eirean. The committee is constantly amazed and gratified by the generosity of our community of Horsington and South Cheriton who attended and contributed to the evening. We raised £570 for Hall funds which will help to cover some of our costs. My thanks must go to the other members of the committee for all the help in everything from cooking to the organisational skills required for the successful evening we undoubtedly had.

The Hall Management Committee is mindful of the effort of the Parish Council in its continued monitoring and maintenance of the Hall surrounds and is very grateful.