

## **Chairman's Report 2016/17**

This has been an eventful and successful year for the Village Hall. We continued the refurbishment project with the aid of a grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation, which has provided sufficient funding for us to replace the old weatherboard and bargeboards, install new windows on the west gable end and repaint the external cladding. This work is currently in progress.

To date, we have raised over £18,000 through grants and individual donations. There remain a number of items needing attention: the windows at the rear of the Hall and the heating system are the most significant. We will continue to apply for grants to allow this work to be completed.

The refurbishment work is paid for from restricted funds, i.e. money set aside specifically for this purpose, rather than from general funds used for the day-to-day running of the Hall. The major running expenses faced by the Hall are insurance and electricity.

This year we had the rebuilding costs for the Hall reassessed and our insurance cover is now appropriate. We also changed our electricity supplier and are now on a 100% renewable energy tariff, which not only reduces our carbon footprint to zero, but also saves us money! An incidental benefit from the refurbishment work was the upgrading of the entire electrical system, with the result that the Hall now meets current standards in this area too. The income to meet our running costs comes partly from hire of the Hall - from our regular users, Caynham Ashford WI, Caynham and District Gardening Society, Caynham Book Exchange, Shropshire Village Hall Quiz, the weekly Yoga Class and now Caynham Parish Council, and also private bookings which have increased this year - and partly from fund-raising events.

The Village Hall Committee are very active in fund raising, but with our limited numbers we also rely heavily on help from others. Thanks are due particularly this year to Jill and Ray Bufton, Chris King, Sheila and Lester Bennett, Paula Spencer, Gill and John Bissell and Jenny Daniel. This year we made a small operating profit, the first for four years.

Highlights of the year were: the very popular Ceilidh Evening, organised to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and, fortuitously, the first event in the redecorated Hall with its new entrance door; the traditional Christmas Festive Lunch, in collaboration with St Mary's Church PCC; and Dr Neil Spencer's fascinating talk on his experiences in Antarctica. We plan to offer a similar mix of events in the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee members, Joan and Terry Anley, Barbara Ashford, Jean Faulkner, Juliet Jones and Caroline Prentice, without whom none of this would be possible.

**Chairman:**  
**David Faulkner**