

Village Hall Committee 2015/16 Annual Report

Since the last AGM, the Village Hall Committee has continued to hold regular meetings to ensure good maintenance of the hall and surrounding area, manage bookings and arrange social events for the village.

Shimpling Celebrates, organised by Bernard with support from the VHC, once again took place over the late May Bank Holiday. Events included a treasure hunt for the youngsters, the family brunch and of course, the cart race, won by Dave Campan. This event was enjoyed by all those who attended the activities and is a great opportunity to bring our village community together. A bar-b-q was held at the village hall after the cart race, with many residents attending. Once again Mike Thew's quiz was well attended and greatly enjoyed. Money raised over the course of the weekend was sent to the Nepalese Disaster Fund.

In August, John Sinclair re-decorated the inside of the hall and hopes to paint the outside this summer. Necessary electrical work has been undertaken, as well as a new electric meter being installed, following some inaccurate readings. The car park was given a much-needed layer of shingle, carried out by members of the committee, plus a couple of other volunteers, helping to keep the costs down. Further work needs to be carried out to replace the path at the side of the hall.

In October the VHC organised a very successful Chinese evening, approximately 30 people sat down to a good selection of dishes and took part in a light-hearted table quiz about China.

As usual in November, we welcomed back Vernon, for his annual quiz, which is always well attended and very popular. Fish and chips, served at half time, were much appreciated by everyone.

Also in November, with the re-opening of the Bush, it was decided to hold the Village Christmas meal there. This event was also well supported and enjoyed by all.

As there was no pantomime this year, it was agreed that a Variety show would be a good alternative, needing much less rehearsal time. People were invited to a meeting in January and, with enough interest being shown, the dates were set for two performances in early March. With a cast of 25, the show was a great success. The acts were diverse and show-cased a great deal of village and local talent.

The VHC welcomes new ideas, along with old favourites, for it's programme of events. Unfortunately, no talks have been held this year, but arrangements have already been made for one in April, on Watercolours and it is hoped that more will follow throughout the coming months.

Thanks to Stan for taking care of the finances and all those members of the VHC who have help arrange, set up and helped out at events; they also ensure the maintenance of the village hall, taking on the day to day jobs of cleaning, putting out bins etc and carrying out regular risk assessments in line with the Health & Safety policy, behind the scenes jobs that ensure our hall is fit to be used by our community.

The VHC would also like to thanks those not on the committee who regularly give time, particularly John Watson and John Sinclair.

The committee would also welcome new members, to help bring a fresh ideas to our programme. Meetings are held approximately every six weeks.

Bernard Essery
Chair VHMC.