

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2016/17

We haven't held many events this year, preferring to facilitate the hall for any residents willing to do so and concentrating our efforts in keeping the hall usable and open for all.

Nevertheless we did have a very successful Thanksgiving Supper last November and the hall sparkled with Christmas lights all the way through December, as it will again this year.

Our hirers always comment how much they like the hall, Keep fit and Pilates classes are regulars and we host events for villages less fortunately housed than ourselves, such as Langley and Strethall. The annual Red Cross Bridge afternoon, usually in May, is another well attended and popular event at the village hall. The Dudds have been here a few times too.

We have had children's parties, wakes and wedding receptions, wedding anniversary parties and big birthday parties too. We lend out our tables and chairs, crockery and cutlery, for a small fee. We'll even let people use our car park, by prior arrangement, of course. If you don't ask.....

Our civic function has provided facilities as a polling station, several times in 2016 and 2017 thanks to the police commissioner, the county council, Brexit referendum and general election. Unlike 'Betty from Bristol' we rubbed our hands when the PM announced a snap general election! We host the parish council meetings, shared with Elmdon Village hall, as well as occasional meetings of both the Broadband working Group and the Village Design Statement Group. We have a number of exciting prospective hirers for 2018, for which negotiations are currently taking place.

It costs, approximately, £5 a day to keep the hall running, without doing any enhancements, cleaning, maintenance or repairs. The grass and hedges are maintained by James Davies of Greenfingers who does a fantastic job.

We rely on all the above events to help us meet the cost of keeping the hall open. Of course we do have some generous benefactors, Councillor Robert Chambers and Elmdon and Wenden Lofts Parish Council being two important sources of funding throughout the year, for which we are very grateful.

I would like to thank the Village Hall Committee and the trustees for all their support during the year.