

Hutton Henry Community Association Annual Report 2018

Once again, I have to report 2018 was once again a busy year for the community association and village hall.

The interior of the hall was decorated and the work has been well admired, funding for this was awarded by the County Durham Foundation.

A War memorial has been erected outside in a more public place to honour the men who gave their lives in both World Wars. This was unveiled on the 11th November by Alan Johnson in front of one of the largest gatherings of people that I can ever recall seeing in this village since moving here 22 years ago.

This project was financed by Hutton Henry Parish council for which we are all very grateful.

But even now we still have things to do to improve the hall still further.

We still have to have a bin shelter built and some quite extensive work needs to be done to the roof and the doorway, the finance for these will hopefully be provided by grants for which we have already applied.

We are now producing the Hutton Henry Herald to keep you all informed and up to date with news of forthcoming activities, many thanks to Clare Lightowler for undertaking this task.

Over the last 12 months we have certainly had an increase in activity in the hall and this shows definite signs of increasing in the near future with birthdays, celebrations and other social events. All planned by the events committee ladies who have put together a busy and ambitious programme of events for 2019, some of these are new innovations which will hopefully attract a wider audience.

Without these events and the hiring of the hall it would be impossible for us to continue to have what I personally consider to be a very valuable community asset.

Thanks to my wife Muriel, our bookings secretary, who is kept busy showing people round the hall keeping the bookings up to date and ensuring the income is received.

The upkeep and running costs of the hall is not only be paid for by this income but just as importantly from the generosity and support of the local community who attend functions and events, provide raffle and tombola prizes and buy the tickets to help us finance and maintain the village hall.

Our financial position is improving and shows that, what started off as a quite anxious but ambitious project for all of us, in as far as we were far from certain that we could run the hall and pay the bills and keep our heads above water, has in fact turned out to be a success.

Thank you to my fellow trustees, a special thank you must go to our secretary Lynda who organises meetings, produces agendas, writes the minutes and generally seems to keep us all in check.

A big thank you to the many volunteers who give their time freely to maintain the hall, to organise events and assist with the many ongoing tasks needed to keep the hall and grounds looking as fabulous as it does,

Thank you also to Hutton Henry Parish Council, Gardens of Grace Landscapes, Choccy Treats & Scrumptious Cakes & for the donation of the Christmas tree and the funding towards the Christmas Carols Around the Tree, M & L Licensed Bars.

As I said last year, this hall is still needing improvements and these are in progress and we are getting there thanks to the continuing support of our community.

David Mitchinson
Chairman