

Eastham Memorial Hall, Chairman's Report for year 2009/2010

At the recent AGM Mr John Inge resigned as Chairman of this committee. He has been Chairman for ten years and we are all grateful for his very careful stewardship of this 'Memorial Hall'. He has kindly agreed to continue as treasurer, so we shall still have all his experience and good sense to call upon. **Thank you John.**

At this recent AGM I agreed to take over as Chairman for one year. Phil Gibbs is Vice Chairman. You will see, from the accounts that John has produced, our finances are good at the moment. Regular income from Yoga and Age Concern has been very useful. The Flower Show and Fete Committee and Teme Works have made donations to the Hall. These have been invaluable. Income was received from The Curry evening and the Valentine Supper. Thanks to everyone involved. Mother and toddler group has closed due to lack of support. Working Mums and early start at school have contributed to the problem, we feel.

Membership - Sadly, Mr Barry Gutteridge, Mr. Mike Dowling, Mrs. Adele Adams and Mrs Margaret Scholefield have resigned from the committee.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Diane Clarke, Mr. Roger Chedgzoy and Mrs Pen Harrison. Cleaning is always a problem in a public building. We are sad to lose Heather, who is moving house, but pleased to welcome Lucy Arnold who has agreed to take over as 'Hall Cleaner'.

The committee had a meeting with Mr Rob Grunsell from 'Community First'. He highlighted various things that we, as a committee should do.

We have thrown out the old doormat and bought a safer one.

We have locked up the 'chemicals'.

We have had all the portable electrical appliances PAT tested.

We are in the process of obtaining a new Electrical Certificate.

We have conducted a 'Risk Assessment'.

We have also, whilst on the subject of Electricity, decided to put up the cost of heating, to the client.

Grants

We need to spend lots of money on the hall. It is looking very sad. Mr Chedgzoy kindly made some notes on works needed. If you care to walk around the hall outside you can see the problem. The windows are in a sad state of repair. The committee decided that it would be best to try to obtain a grant for new windows. Such a grant would only be available for double glazed units and UPVC is much cheaper than wood.

The rendering is cracked and in need of repair. Failure to do this may cause rotting of the wooden frame due to ingress of water.

The Hall is old. At the moment we are sticking plaster on it to hold it together. We must consider the future. The roof is nearly 100 years old. It will not last forever.

Does Eastham want a village hall? How many people use it? If all the people who use it are elderly, do we just think ahead a few years until they cease to need it?

Do we try to raise cash? £100,000 perhaps? Would anyone give us a plot for a new village hall?

Should we write to everyone in the parish and ask if they care?

On a lighter note. A Musical Picnic will take place here on October 29th 2010.

We will arrange the Music –you bring your own picnic.

Jam sandwiches and Coca cola – Oysters and champagne, whatever you fancy.

Thank you everyone for coming and the committee in advance for the work ahead!