

Horton and Little Sodbury Village Hall Committee

Chairman's Report 2010 - 2011

Yet another Horton and Little Sodbury Village Hall year comes to an end

And if you remember the last year's Chairman's reports and our achievements ... well, to be honest, I didn't think that we had achieved much this year ... but then I started to reflect on the past 12 months and the work and events that have taken place in and around the village hall.

Thankfully this year, the only 'disaster' happened with the thawing of the snow, and the small leak in the roof caused by the frost affected tiles, which required an immediate temporary repair.

On the maintenance side, we have been able to completely re-organise the bar area and introduce a store room by the side; we have installed glass and dish washers in the bar and kitchen areas; we have re-fitted the disabled toilet to bring it in line with current regulations, laid additional gravel in the car park to address the problem of the small stream that runs down from the pavilion and we have fitted a baby changing table.

In addition, we have also taken ownership of some temporary storage, into which we have moved a mountain of village hall equipment that was used on a periodical basis but was gathering dust in the back room

And during all this time, we, as a committee, have continued to provide a large number of events, providing opportunities for social gatherings, as well as allowing us the opportunity for much needed fund raising. We have had a superb, albeit wet, firework display, a New Year's Eve party, Burns Night, a wassailing night, the winter and summer bull runs, barn dances, music nights, the quiz trilogy, a very successful Murder Mystery night (and apologies to any I have left out).

But, for me personally, the outstanding event of the year has been the Royal Wedding Party, when over 130 people from the village came and watched the marriage of Will and Kate. There were games, quizzes, a wonderful hog roast – a fabulous time was had by one and all – a real village event.

All of these events were extremely well organised, and well supported, and I would like to give my personal thanks to everyone who helped in any way with these and the many other events.

It is also important to remember that the Village Hall provides much needed additional facilities for other local organisations, including the church and the school, and I would like to take this opportunity in thanking them in the part they play in the maintenance and upkeep of this hall.

And, as has been mentioned on numerous occasions, the hall continues to be a hugely popular venue with hirers and we already have another busy diary for the coming year

But those were last year's events and we need to do the same and a lot more and build on our successes if we are to fund our aspirations for this hall.

So it is important to reflect on why we are doing this; why we put so much of our time and our efforts into the upkeep of the hall.

It is because we want to provide a focal point to allow Horton and Little Sodbury village life to prosper; to promote the sense of togetherness and community that being in a small village provides; to provide a place where local groups can congregate and where villagers can become true neighbours as they join with us in the various events that go on in our village hall.

However, with funds available, and our desire to pursue further grant funding, we no longer need to look to just maintaining the status quo. We can now look to larger and more far-reaching projects to further develop the hall to benefit the community.

This brings me nicely on to our challenges for the 12 months ahead.

There have been a number of projects discussed – we need to replace the roof tiles; we need to re-paint the ceiling in the main hall; we need to introduce better options for lighting the main hall ... but our big project is to enhance the catering facilities by expanding the kitchen into the back store area.

And this will need to be our focus for the coming year

But that is for next year.

As for this year, I would like to thank the villagers and supporters who continue to use the village hall.

But most of all, I would like to thank all the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work over the previous 12 months. There have been highs and there have been lows, but the committee continue to give their time, their commitment, their enthusiasm and their support to ensuring that the village has a facility that it can be proud of. And for that, I thank you all.

Tony Wake
Chair,
Horton and Little Sodbury Village Hall