

Report from Messing Village Hall Trustees to the AGM of the Messing Parish Council 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015 from Ros Bryant – current Chairman  
Messing Village Hall Trustees

Main Points of Interest for April 2014 to April 2015

- The Village Hall was runner up in The Essex Village Hall of the Year Award for 2014.
- **Roof Works**
- It was agreed that a key target for 2014/2015 would be the recladding of the roof of the Village Hall to prevent any further degradation of the 58 year old material. We are pleased to report that this was achieved in the early part of 2015. Some points of note are:
  - £8,000 was received from a grant application from The Essex Environment Trust and a further £2,000 was received from FSJ of Chelmsford.
  - The substantial sum of approximately £3,000 was raised from a mixture of village contributions, a Tapas evening courtesy of David Smith and the Gooddays, the Wine Club, Star-gazing, various talks and the Messing Spring Market courtesy of The Friends of Messing Church and the Messing Open Gardens. An award from RCCE Essex Village Hall of the Year runner-up was also received.
  - Blackwater carried out the work of recladding and the project has been given some prominence by RCCE as an example of a highly cost effective but aesthetically appropriate remedy for buildings of this type and age.
- **Flood Works**
- A significant effort was made under the leadership of the Messing Parish Council with support from local politicians and professionals from the Council to find a solution, within an overall master plan, to prevent flooding of the village hall.

- In the interim a contingency plan was constructed involving volunteers of sandbaggers and alerters to prevent further flooding.
- We are pleased to report that due to all the efforts of those involved funds have been awarded and the project, under the management of Geoff Jackson and David Smith, will commence within the next month as soon as all planning approvals are received.
- Fund Raising for the flood protection also involved the production of table mats specifically designed with Messing village scenes managed by Patricia Craig. These raised a very substantial £1,400 contribution to the general fund.
- **Other Issues**
- The Installation of a Smart Meter has enabled greater analysis of use of electricity. Running costs for both power and water have halved within the last year following some adjustments to the thermostatic controls associated with the Air Source Heat Pump. We continue to receive credit from the power generated by the photovoltaic panels on the extension roof.
- The Parish Council kindly funded a new notice board to the front of the building.
- A review of the concessionary rate relief and the proposed Government changes was carried out with the result that Messing Village Charitable Trust continue to be a beneficiary of the rate relief as previously.
- The hall continues to build on its reputation as a clean, attractive, warm (in Autumn/Winter) venue and as a result income is steadily improving year on year.
- A review of the hiring charges has been undertaken and for the first time in three years there has been an increase to external hirers.
- It has been agreed that a defibrillator for the village will be sited at the village hall

- **Trustees and Members of the Committee**

- Patricia Craig joined the Committee last Autumn and has made a significant contribution to the team.
- Elaine Smith, Secretary, decided to retire from the Committee after giving a huge effort over two years. Her considerable expertise and experience were of enormous help to the current team. She is missed.
- Mary Mann has kindly agreed to join the team as has Andrew Lucas. We are hugely grateful for their support and already feel the benefit of their input.
- We are, as always, grateful to Brian Duffield as our caretaker, Celia for the gardening, Mike Sibthorpe for his practical skills and a whole range of other people who support the team.

- **Objectives for 2015/2016**

- There is a need for a thorough review into all the administrative and legal duties that should be undertaken for Messing Village Hall. These to include all compliance issues and general administrative processes.
- A programme of planned preventative maintenance should be put together to ensure we are budgeting appropriately for works that must be carried out to protect and preserve the fabric of the village hall.
- We should build on the excellent programme of hirings we now have but also work to provide, and extend, the sorts of events and courses that the villagers of Messing would enjoy.
- To undertake a through review of the Messing Village Hall web site to make sure that it is the best possible advertisement for our village facility both for villagers but also for the wider market.
- To complete the flood prevention measures.

## **Contributions and Thanks**

As always we could not operate effectively without the support and advice received from the Parish Council, the Councillors and their advisers, the support of Friends of Messing Church, the Parochial Church Council and all those regular hirers from within and outside the village who help us financially to protect the hall and provide improved facilities.

And most importantly, we are always hugely grateful to our villagers who turn out to support events, join clubs or just work quietly in the background helping the team at the hall continue the long tradition of having a Village Hall for Messing.

13<sup>th</sup> May 2015