



Available for Hire – Weddings – Parties – Clubs

Playing Field - Cricket & Football

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014/15

As usual I would like to start by thanking the members of the Committee who have supported me during the year and those not on the Committee but have also given their time, help and support, in particular Lawrence who has continued to cut the grass for us for another year and Paul Edwards who often goes well beyond his duties as caretaker at the Hall.

The year has been quite an eventful one for us. Back in the early summer we held what has become an annual event, the Cricket Festival. By chance it happened to be on the weekend before the Tour de France was coming through Shalford on the Monday. So we took the opportunity to leave up the marquee and beer tent from the Cricket Festival and open the recreation ground up for overnight camping on the Sunday night and provide refreshments for anyone who wanted to take advantage of what was a perfect viewing spot for the Tour.

Despite the drizzle on the Saturday the cricket went ahead and was enjoyed by players and spectators alike. The weather improved on the Sunday and Monday which meant that the whole weekend raised around £3,000 which has been put into the fund we are building up for repairing the Village Hall Roof. That fund now stands at around £17,000

The lettings on the hall are gradually increasing and with income from letting the football pitch, the cricket pitch and tennis court our income for the year exceeded our expenditure.

At Christmas the Parish Council again provided a tree to raise the festive spirit for which we are grateful.

We have seen two major improvements to the facilities since our last AGM. Firstly we were able to work with the Parish Council and secure some Section 106 money from Braintree District Council which was used to replace the fencing around the grounds. This has significantly improved the visual aspect of the grounds and has received many compliments. Secondly we were able to obtain a grant from ECC Communities Initiative Fund which along with some money from the Parish Council has allowed us to fully refurbish the kitchen and bring it up to modern health and

hygiene standards. Hopefully this will encourage more people to hire the Hall for private events and boost our rental revenue.

I would like to thank the hirers who had to put up with some disruption during the refurbishment works but everybody who has seen the kitchen has said how good it looks.

Looking forward we are going to run the Cricket Festival again this year on Saturday 11th July and will try to make it a bigger event with music and maybe a hog roast as well as the beer tent and barbeque. The funds raised will again go into the “Roof Fund.” We did think that we might have a fete on the Sunday but after Vic volunteered to arrange a Fete meeting last year and only one person turned up I am not so sure.

So to sum up we have had a good year, made improvements to the facilities and are financially sound, so thanks to all those who have made it possible.

Colin Golding
08th April 2015