

## BRADFIELD VILLAGE HALL REPORT 2016

Much of the focus for the Bradfield Village Hall Management Committee this year has been the planning for a new village hall together with the upgrading of the playground, multi-use games area and car park. However, we are very mindful that the current building needs to be maintained to as high a standard as we can.

The Hall is well used during the day, although we could accommodate some more regular bookings. Casual bookings are increasing, particularly for children's parties and we continue to have to turn bookings away because it is already booked. The income has improved but the expenditure exceeded income this year. This was a result of the costs of the planning application as well as some major repair work. However the deficit was covered by our reserves.

Much effort is expended in keeping this building in good working order and compliant to the latest regulations. We have had continual problems with the **boiler**, which seems to have a mind of its own. The plumbing is antiquated and we have looked into alternative, less expensive forms of heating. However as yet we haven't found a viable alternative, bearing in mind we are hoping that it only has to last another 4 or 5 years.

The **electrics** have also led to concerns. All the electrics were inspected last week and we have received the details of the vital work as well as the advisory work. The committee will be discussing how to proceed later in the month, but it looks as if it will cost in the region of £2,500. We have already replaced a dangerous socket and the pendant lights have been condemned. It is unlikely that we replace them. [The light switches to them are the original 1951 switches.] The current legislation also requires us to replace the entire fuse board. The electrician who had to sign off the work on the defibrillator was very reluctant to do so, and only agreed as we had already booked an electrical inspection.

The **playground** was also inspected last week and the report illustrated the need for its replacement. Arrangements have already been made to address the main concerns.

The **car park** continues to be very well used by hall and shop users, as well as those on the school runs, walkers, trades people on lunch breaks and dog walkers. The painting of lines defining the parking spaces has much improved the number of cars that can be accommodated.

The Management Committee appreciates the continued support of the Parish Council for contributions towards the upkeep of the outside areas – the grass cutting and the playground.

In the new year, a defibrillator was fitted to the front of the building by Heartstart Thatcham, provided using money raised at a jazz concert in Bradfield College. There was a formal launch and training session here on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

We have had two very successful fund raising events during the year. In October, Bradfield College held an impressive choral concert in Douai Abbey, raising over £2,000. Sunshine Club also organised a Bingo Night for our benefit and raised £355. Last week, the Watermill Theatre returned yet again with a superb production of "One Million Tiny Plays about Britain". 120 tickets were sold and £1,651.51 was raised. With the Greenham Common Community Trust Grant doubling our efforts, that has given the new hall fund over £8,000. Other donations have been made in addition that raised by the Bradfield Market.

It is essential that we progress towards the new development as soon as possible. This building is no longer fit for purpose, it is not going to last and we need to look to the future and provide this community with a facility we can all be proud of. I hope that the parish will support us in our proposals for the new Village Hall.