**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WILLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 07.11.17**

Once again the Village Hall has had a very good year during which we have maintained the facilities in the Hall and have organised a number of successful fundraising and social events.

**Events**

The Annual Christmas Fayre, held in November, was sadly not as well attended as the usual successful event. The cold weather and other competing events meant that stallholders were disappointed at the turnout. This year it will be at the later date of 2nd December and we hope for a livelier event.

The main event of this year was the Willingham Awards Ceremony held in February. Though led by the Village Hall Committee many villagers and other organisations got involved to organise a fantastic night of food entertainment and a celebration of local achievement.

On Saturday 29th April owe rganised a St Georges night dinner, back by popular demand. This was a great night of English food and entertainment. Sausages and Maypole dancing were both on the menu and a great night was had by all!

**Maintenance of the Hall**

We continue to ensure the Hall is kept clean and tidy and that all of the facilities are maintained in good working order.

A new notice board has been purchased and installed outside the Hall next to the footpath where it is accessible to all. The noticeboard matches the Parish Council one and it has been installed next to it.

From April 2018 we will be taking on responsibility for the grasscutting of the grass around the building.

**Use of the Hall**

For the last 6 years a grant from the Parish Council has enabled us to reduce and keep the hourly rates we charge to hire the hall affordable for local organisations and private hire. This has continued to prove successful. We regularly monitor this and total receipts from hire charges are not significantly reduced and the hall is in constant use in the evenings during the week. We’ve had a good take up of private hire events.

Local organisations continue to enjoy use of the hall including table tennis, the Willingham band and the local group Wilko, Sturton Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers all meet weekly and monthly bookings from Friendship and WI have kept up the use along with seasonal use from Twinning for the play which opens on 17th November and private function hire.

The regular monthly coffee mornings that we started in 2012 have gone from strength to strength and will continue, thanks to the hard work of the volunteers from the committee and friends of the Village hall who support this event. We are always open to new ideas of how to use the hall so let us know if you want us to run an event.

Our bookings clerk resigned last year and since then Anne Cragg has stepped in to the breach. However we are looking for a permanent bookings clerk so please spread the word.

Last but not least I would also like to thank the Parish Council and villagers for their ongoing support.

The Committee

I say this every year but we are incredibly lucky in Willingham that we continue to have a fantastically committed committee. Attendance at our lively and friendly meetings is very good and everyone helps out at events and supports in numerous different ways and I would like to thank you all.

The Friendship Club has not been able to sustain having a representative on the committee, but the Twinning Committee who regularly use the Hall now have a representative on the Committee. However we are looking to recruit new committee members if anyone would like to join our merry band.

It has been another great year for the Village Hall. We continue to provide a community venue which is accessible and available to the community and to promote events which promote the unique community spirit that we already have in this village.

Rebecca Andrews, Chairman Village Hall Committee