

Village Hall Chairman's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 2009

The village hall has had a steady year though income from hirers fell by 2.6%. Bookings were noticeably lower in the last quarter of 2008 and a significant number of cancellations were received especially for fundraising functions. It is hard to evaluate whether this is a result of the recession or not. Once again we have concentrated our efforts on our plans to modernise the hall and expenditure has been modest, the result being an excess of income over expenditure of £5,600. It should be pointed out that our income from hiring represents about two thirds of our total income and without the money received from the Meals on Wheels service, the Orange Mast and various donations our financial situation would be poor. The Rural Cinema has again been a very good earner and we are very grateful for Lana Long's hard work in making it such a success. One highlight of the year was undoubtedly the full house who danced, sang and ate fish and chips to Mamma Mia.

We were pleased to gain planning permission for the proposed redevelopment and also that John Hancock has agreed to chair the fundraising committee who's work is now commencing in earnest. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for their support and financial help with some of the initial development costs and also to Compton's International for their help and advice about fundraising. We hope to announce shortly the receipt of a grant which will enable us to start what has been labeled phase one of our redevelopment plans and hence to be able to provide some vastly improved toilet facilities. Our next fundraising event is the Carnival Barn Dance on Saturday June 6th, tickets are still available and we shall be please to see as many of you as possible.

One unusual event this year has been the redecoration of the kitchen, Farley room and changing rooms by student volunteers from Warwick and Coventry Universities this coupled with free paint donated by Dulux has been very useful and our thanks are due to them. The students were amazing with representatives from Eastern Europe, Africa , the Far East and of course the UK.

Our thanks are, as always, due to the village and the Parish Council for all the support we receive.

G. Thorpe. Management Committee Chairman.