

## Chairman's Report for 2014/15

Our activity as a managing committee must be viewed against the objectives stated in the 1960 Trust Deed:

To provide a Village Hall for the use of the inhabitants of Tiverton and neighbourhood, particularly for

- Meetings
- Lectures and Classes
- Other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Any income that the management committee raises is used in the following order of priority, as required by the Trust Deed:

1. Expenses of administration
2. Hall maintenance, upkeep insurance and other operating expenses
3. Furthering the objectives of the Trust Deed

Any money not needed for working purposes will be treated as capital and invested.

These objectives are delivered through a management committee which has maintenance and the good appearance of the Hall as its priorities. Where necessary, the committee promotes and organises events to raise funds for maintenance of the Hall.

To this end, the following activity was promoted by the committee in 2014/15:

- Managing an on-going programme of maintenance inspections to satisfy the requirements of licensing authorities and our insurers, for instance the annual Fire Extinguisher Inspection and monthly Emergency Lighting checks.
- Regular committee meetings were held through the year, approximately every 4 months.

We continue to find it very difficult to attract new committee members who will play a full part in the management of the village hall, so the current committee has to work that bit harder to manage the hall in way our users have come to expect. We currently have vacancies for 3 committee members (out of a total committee membership of 10)

Income from hire of the hall at £3,526 has improved significantly over the year with the addition of two new long term users (Keep Fit and Pilates) as well as a significant increase in the number of casual hires. We believe our policy of offering up to date facilities at a modest rental (subject to a £20 minimum charge) is now beginning to pay off as the message gets out into the wider community. The Parish Council annual donation of £100 has now been restored this year

The cost of cleaning at £771 dominates the hall expenditure, but we did manage to recover last years overcharge from MollyMop. However, the cleaning contract continues to be somewhat problematic to manage. We have also had to take on a gardening resource as the management of the patio areas was getting beyond the capability of our volunteers. This is expected to be an ongoing expense.

We are currently benefitting from the very low fuel oil prices, so heating costs look very modest this year. The change of electricity supplier from Scottish Power to Southern Electric is also producing a modest saving (around £25 in 2014/15).

The Drop-In Coffee Morning continues to run on a monthly basis with steady attendance and makes a modest contribution to Hall funds (£20).

The contribution from interest on deposits (£114) continues at a low level in line with national interest rates.

The Committee continues with its policy of not undertaking an external audit of its accounts as the base turnover is well below the £25,000 threshold at which the Charities' Commission requires independent examination of the accounts (CC31).

To summarise, 2014/15 has been about maintaining the hall in the good condition by following up promptly on any significant items of maintenance, and attracting more users. Continuing to control costs will ensure that we are able to offer the hall at a very competitive rates to those new users.

S A Armitage  
Chairman