

16 May 2016

Hatley Village Association – annual report for 2015 / 16

By Peter Mann – HVA chairman 2015

This report covers the period April 2015 to March 2016 – and looks to the future.

As always, the HVA committee did a sterling job during the year organising events and taking responsibility to raise the finance and then install a new kitchen and boiler in the Village Hall.

The year's events – which raised £671 for HVA funds – were:

- April 24 2015: *Farming from then to now... and beyond* by John Terry, a former adviser to the Countryside Restoration Trust – raised £104.
- June 23 2015: *The Swiss Garden at Old Warden*, a talk by Philippa Pearson as part of The Big Hatley Weekend – money raised (circa £100) given to Hatley St George Church.
- September 17 2015: *Lines in Nature*, talk looking at features of the local landscape by Martin Davies – £138.
- December 6 2015: Hatley Christmas Tea, which featured a superbly judged Hatley Master Baker competition, open to men only and won by Alan Pinney – £84.
- February 6 2016: The annual Hatley Quiz Night – £345.
- February 7 2016: East Hatley pancake race – £21.

It is disappointing to report the miserable attendance at the farming talk last April (18 people), the Swiss Garden talk (14 people) and the nature talk (21 people). Thankfully, many more came to the Christmas Tea and over 60 to this year's Quiz – most of whom turned up for the pancake race the following day.

In April just past, Micky Astor gave a really good talk about his conservation work in Hatley Park – with 40+ in the audience, raising £249.

Committee

The current committee is John O'Sullivan (the 2016 chairman), Sarah Brennan, Anne Hooley, Mervyn Lack, Peter Mann, Mick Marshall, Harold Nickerson, Alan Pinney and Clive and Jill Weightman. Philippa Pearson joins us as the representative of Hatley St George Church.

Thank you HVA committee for the time and effort you put in looking after the detail, organising speakers, designing and distributing flyers, getting the hall ready, buying in wine and nibbles, making the raffle and clearing up afterwards.

Thanks also to the Parish Council for your support and to the sweethearts of the HVA committee for their fantastic help making tea and cakes and taking charge of the washing up after each event.

Looking forward

Coming up is the **Big Hatley Weekend** starting on Friday 24th June, which the HVA supports. On 16th September there will be a talk about the **Shuttleworth Collection** of largely pre-WWII planes, a **Race Night** on 14th October, the **Christmas Tea** on 4th December and the **Quiz Night** on 4th February 2017.

Work is also in hand for a **street party** in East Hatley on Saturday, 11th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and the creation of a regular **coffee morning** in the Village Hall on the first Saturday of each month, which Mervyn Lack and Linda Hudson are masterminding.

New kitchen and boiler

The Village Hall's new kitchen, floor covering, tiling and boiler were installed in March 2016, following a grant from Awards For All England for £9,928 – just under its £10,000 maximum.

The total cost, including upgrading the electrics and replacing the old bar heater with a new fan heater and the old door closers with new ones (and many other minor refinements, including a glass panel in the door between the hall and the kitchen and the purchase of two 'dirt mats') was £11,676 – the shortfall (£1,748) coming out of HVA funds.

Huge thanks has to go to John Wright of East Hatley who did all the kitchen work, Mervyn Lack, also of East Hatley who looked after the scheduling, Abacus Oil Experts of Bassingbourn, which supplied and installed the boiler, Mark Francis, the electrician of CMF Electrical in Sandy and Harold Nickerson who was always available to resolve queries over the whereabouts of things to do with the old kitchen.

I've put detailed notes about the new kitchen, with photographs, up on the Hatley website – www.hatley.info/community/New-kitchen-2016.htm and also sent the notes and pictures to the *Gamlingay Gazette* for the June issue

Sound system

For several years we were very fortunate to have the loan of a very high quality sound system via Hatley St George residents Pippa and David Hardy – they moved to another part of the county earlier this year.

In their stead, the HVA purchased a simple-to-operate 'all in one' sound system in January 2016 for £139. It is kept in the Village Hall.

New loos and entrance for the Village Hall

The next major project the HVA is looking at is to replace the toilets and spruce up the entrance hall in an effort to make the Hall even more attractive to hire out. It will also be an opportunity to provide a 'disabled' toilet for those confined to a wheelchair.

The likely cost will be £30,000 – for which a grant will be obtained.

The current plan is to replace totally the existing toilets and wash basins – and for them to remain as suitable only for non-disabled people; to make them big enough for wheelchair users would mean room for only one person in each of the present loo spaces, which the Committee feels would provide insufficient facility for larger scale events.

For disabled visitors, part of the current store room near the back of the Hall – where the toilets were located when the Hall was built – will be made into a disabled-specific uni-sex loo.

These are, though, early days.

Finance

The HVA, being a sub-set of Hatley Parish Council, uses the PC as its 'bank', administered by Mick Marshall (as the HVA 'Treasurer') and Kim Wilde, Clerk to the Parish Council.

The current balance is £2,402.90, including a £200 donation from the Cricket Club in memory of the late Robin Harris.