

Open Gardens

A fantastic profit of £5,090 was achieved this year, with nominated local cancer charity Rosemere raising an additional £525 from their efforts towards its major Appeal to raise £200,000 to refurbish the chemotherapy unit at Burnley hospital. A donation of £2,090 was given to the charity, with £3,000 being retained by the Village Hall – largely for the scheduled structural work.

In 2017, the annual Open Gardens will take place on 22nd and 23rd July in aid of the Village Hall and Crossroads Care Ribble Valley. All offers of help for this, and any other fundraising initiatives for our Village Hall, are very gratefully received by the Committee who are thanked for their ongoing work and efforts to keep this valuable community resource viable and, indeed, flourishing.

Olivia Assheton. Tom Mclean.
April, 2017.

www.downhamvillage.org.uk/downham-village-hall



ANNUAL REVIEW

2016

The Committee

At the AGM in April, resignations from the committee were received from Susan Carter, Julie Ascroft and Olive Awbery, with Kella Bowers and Angie Greenhill also resigning in the year. They were thanked for their time and commitment. The rest of the committee, including the Hon Chairman (Shaun Roney), Hon Treasurer (Brian Lewis) and Hon Secretary (Olivia Assheton) were re-elected en-bloc. Shaun Roney was thanked for his ongoing and excellent work both as chairman and bookings secretary.

Later in the year, Neil Wallace was voted onto the committee, which met five times in 2016.

New fundraising initiatives were proposed by committee members for 2017, led by Philip Naylor, and these are being actively pursued (a number in conjunction with, and as joint fundraisers for, the PCC/Church). Money was also allocated to update the village hall website, following a review and revision of the Hall Hire charges by a sub-committee.

The Building

Two major structural concerns were addressed in the year - the ongoing damp problem to the West Wall and the need for better disabled access/ramp arrangements for the Main Hall. Following extensive planning and consultation on the possible options, quotes were obtained and money allocated for the necessary work. Due to pressure on time commitment by the proposed contractors, the work was shelved, but will be progressed in 2017.

Final tweaks were made to the new lighting and sound systems in the Hall including the installation of a new hearing loop jointly funded by the village hall and Stage II, and new seats were purchased for the downstairs disabled toilets. Extenders for the broadband system were donated by a committee member and installed.

The Village Hall also invested in three large gazebos for use at the Open Gardens and other events which are also available for hire on a commercial basis. Three committee members arranged for the purchase of curtain material and made new curtains for the downstairs meeting room.

Lily Serban took on the cleaning duties at the Hall following the resignation of Yvonne Snowden.

Use of the Village Hall

The Village Hall committee organised an event to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday on 11th June and the annual Bonfire and Fireworks display took place in November.

As well as the Village Hall-arranged events, it was also used for several weddings, charity fundraisers, Christmas parties and other celebrations.

Gardening Club held its annual Show in August and organised six further meetings, Coffee Club met every month, Downham WI and the History Group both had 10 meetings and there were two cookery demonstrations and games afternoons. Stage II put on a very highly acclaimed production of Arsenic and Old Lace in November.

Other users/uses included:

Forest of Bowland AONB Unit

PCC (September meeting)

Police Commissioner Elections and EU Referendum

Rider Haggard Society (AGM)

Church of the Latter Day Saints

Blackburn Art Society

Downham Pre-School Christmas Party

Ribble Valley Dog Training Club