

Trustee's Annual Report for the AGM, 21 March 2016

The past twelve months have been a period of change. The long-standing charity trustees retired on the 30 September and the Parish Council assumed the role of Sole Trustee of the NRCC. A role new to the Parish Council, we are still fine-tuning our administrative protocols to ensure we continue to run the centre and its activities as well as the previous committee did. (To this end, our agenda includes a resolution to adopt amendments to our governing document, which is called a Scheme)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank sincerely the previous committee – Philip & Maureen Kirkby, Bernard Bell, Heather Field, Christine Whale, Marion Murray, Chrissie Childs, Peter Treasure, Christine Grimes and Mark Jennings – who all held significant roles and gave many hours to the betterment of the centre. Indeed Maureen and Philip continue to run the bi-monthly quiz and Chrissie continues to run the twice-monthly bingo – both great fundraising events for the centre, which provided just over £3,600 for the centre during 2015. Bernard also continues to support, as he is one of our emergency key holders and Mark continues to be our Play area inspector.

Improvements during 2015

- **Sport & Social Building:** new soffits and bargeboards were fitted on this building.
- **Tree management:** our significant trees at the entrance required a little more than a light prune this year, so we got the experts in.
- **Main Hall damp:** in an attempt to remedy the dampness under the window in the main hall, we commissioned R&I builders to make good the window's external seals and apply a sealant to the external plaster. We hope this has solved the problem and now waiting for the internal wall to dry out completely before we do any painting (which is planned for this May)

Hall use during 2015

The village clubs and groups continue to utilise the hall and we had a number of private hiring's which is always a good boost to our projected income. Breckland Council hire the hall for kid's activities during holiday times and this is well attended by both village and out of village children.

On the fundraising front, I mentioned quiz and bingo, but we also had Johnny Cleavland last year entertain a packed hall. Such events require committed volunteers to give lots of time and energy into making them happen.

Looking ahead to 2016

The Parish Council who took the reins in October 2015 have their work cut out, following our previous committee, but we are up for the challenge. We have spent the last six months, learning the ropes, getting to know our regular hirer's and working out how to plan a sustainable future for the centre financially and practically. Our financial report 2015 will show that we made a loss and therefore used some of our reserves to support. As we go into 2016, we continue to see a small operating loss, based on projected figures. Our Clerk will be working hard to increase income opportunities for us so that we can keep this loss as low as possible. Our community centre is a vital asset and being in the trusteeship of the Parish Council, we are in a position to ensure it can remain viable through allocation of precept.

David Matthews

Chairman of Trustee board, March 2016