CODFORD VILLAGE HALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

In 2015 Peter Smalley made the CVH Chairman's address and spoke of significant financial and other challenges faced by the Village Hall and the small team of volunteers involved in keeping it running. He warned that things could easily go the wrong way but then exposed the initiatives that he'd started to take us to a better place. Tragically, Peter has since passed away; I'd like to publically acknowledge our gratitude for his leadership of the Committee during a really challenging time, laying in the foundations that have indeed taken us to a better place.

Whilst we are far from being flush with funds, the careful way they continue to be managed by Ann Levick, our Treasurer, and the Committee have taken us out of immediate danger and allowed us to clear away a chunk of our debt. In respect of controlling expenditure, I want to make particular mention of the tenacity of Alec Thomson and Ann Levick for battling their way through to resolve the longstanding issue of the funding of the electricity to run the sewage works for the local properties, this work alone has had a significant positive impact upon our balance sheet. I will make further mention of Alec, he stood down having served for many years on the committee but has remained passionately engaged in keeping it working. We do not employ a caretaker, we do not have the funds to do so, so I am full of gratitude and admiration for the community spirit of Alec in taking on the burden of the daily maintenance of the site. Whilst Alec wielded the screwdriver and REME "fine adjuster", the man who drove the tractor and swung the strimmer was Merv Poolman. After many years of keeping nature in check, Merv has decided to stand down and I want to thank him for his sterling efforts in keeping the grounds so well for us.

Another of our volunteers who has passed over the reins this year is Pam Coward. Pam was our reluctant secretary, always protesting that she wasn't good at the role but performing it with care and accuracy, I know that Peter really found her support invaluable and we all appreciated her careful checking and gentle nudges to keep everything running smoothly. I am pleased that she too is another ex-committee member who remains engaged as our health and safety advisor. As Peter was supported by Pam, I am indebted not to one but two people. I am guilty for recruiting the highly capable Patricia Bettaney onto the Committee, who not only took on the mantle of secretary but did so for a number of months when we operated without a chairperson. The other is Don Bartlett, I work away from home most of the week and, as a father of two very active school children, have little spare time, I felt unable to take on this role alone and was so pleased that Don was prepared to step up to the plate with me as our Vice chair. Don manages our essential link with the Parish Council, with skill being a double-volunteer as both a councillor and a CVH trustee; he is a sound advisor with a depth of knowledge about our community, and he is always there was with his sleeves rolled up whenever the is a job to be done.

I should make further mention of the Parish Council at this point. They are ultimately responsible for this property and grounds but defer the management of it to my committee as the trustees of the charity. However, I am very pleased with the interest the Parish Council show in our activities and the warm and active support that they provide. They, in

particular, have played a major part in easing our financial problems, helping with grants to support the community activities we host and particularly committing to provide really valuable additional funding for development of the hall. That funding has already started to come in and, together with an extremely generous donation from Maurice Cole and another anonymous donor, gives us a great start to the fund raising Don is leading on for the development project that Karl will speak of in a few minutes.

Another principal source of income is of course the Codford Broadleaze Bar. Laura Lewis has handed over the reigns as bar manager to Katie Detheridge. Laura has overseen training for the staff and we are confident that the bar is well run. I'd like to make special mention of all of our staff: Katie and the bar team and also the ever smiling Karungi Grant who is now booking clerk as well as the cleaner, without their dedication and good humour many of our facilities would not work anywhere near so well, or even at all! The bar has seen some great events this year, including a very popular New Years' party and of course the Full Monte. I'd also like to thank all of our regulars, particularly the "Skittlers" for supporting the bar, or sometimes being supported by it!

Entertainment and events in the Hall and grounds have taken a major leap forward this year, and whilst many people in the community have contributed to this, and thank you for doing so, without any doubt the fizz of activity is directly due to two of our committee: Stephanie Neilsen-Hunt and Sara Glasby. They have worked tirelessly to make the VH a 'happening place' and given it life. As well as markets, fairs, parties and the fete, they have turned their attention to the bar and in the best traditions of Disney's fairies are waving their magic wands to change that for the better too. Sara has also taken on the lead for developing our website from Peter Cornock, thank you to Peter for his work on it on the past and we now look to see how it develops with Fairy dust sprinkled on to it! I also can't mention Steph, without also recognising the amazing work that she, Jamie and Matthew, did that saved the life of someone on site only a couple of weeks ago, we are all very proud of the three of you and convinced that the right decision was made to place a defibrillator on the Hall.

I'm happy to report that we are in a better place than a year ago and have a lot to look forward to. I have two requests for assistance:

- We need someone or a couple of people to come onto the committee for a temporary period to assist us with reviewing and establishing our policies as part of a Governance Project.
- We wish to establish the Friends of CVH, for those that are willing to help but don't want the regular commitment of being on the committee, ideas on how to establish this help group of frends would be most welcome.

In conclusion, if I've missed anyone out I apologise, I also apologise for the length of my speech but I think it bears witness to how many people are actively involved in doing really great stuff for the Hall. My final thank you is to all of the members of our committee past and present, who are the trustees of this charity, without your efforts the hall and everything that happens here would grind to a halt.