

Report to Annual Meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Village Hall continues to be very well used, with Cherry Trees Pre-school meeting here every day during term time, different users booking the hall many evenings a week, and indeed there is hardly a day when there is no activity here. Compare that to many Village Halls which are hardly used from one week to the next, and it shows what a thriving Hall we have, and how much it is used and enjoyed by Silchester residents and indeed by those from slightly further afield.

The Trustees have been concentrating more on repairs and maintenance before tackling our next project, which will be to re-roof the Hall, installing underfelt before replacing the tiles so that the wind will no longer be able to drive rain and snow under the tiles and into the Hall. This will require considerable fundraising, but there are some substantial grants available which we are in the process of investigating. At the same time, it might be possible to install solar panels on the roof, as it's aspect lends itself to such an installation. Such an installation would pay for itself in a relatively small number of years, and would then produce an income for the Hall for a number of years to come.

In the meantime, thanks in no small measure to the generosity of a local resident, we have overhauled the ceiling in the Clubroom, and have upgraded the electrical installation, again notably to the Clubroom. You will see that we have also had the floors in both the main Hall and the Clubroom sanded down and resealed, which has improved their appearance considerably. The Silchester Players, another very significant user of the Village Hall, have helped with the installation of a new doorway from the Clubroom to the lobby and kitchen which will help keep out noise from one area to the other. This is important to the Players as they use the Clubroom during performances.

Next year will see a big push to raise the funds for the roofing project, which I would like very much to have completed by next winter if at all possible. As you can see, even though we are drawing breath as it were, we are still working with others to maintain and improve the facilities that many in the Village and local area so extensively use and enjoy, and are planning for the future improvements that will ensure the continuing use and enjoyment of such a substantial asset to the community .