

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

### **REPORT OF THE GRANGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **Mike Brooks – Chairman**

The past 12 months has been a very busy one for the committee. We have continued with a programme of capital investment in the hall with internal redecoration, new floor coverings, curtains and blinds and the purchasing of new bar room furniture. I think you will agree the results give the hall a fresher and more welcoming appearance!

A grant has also recently been submitted to HS2 Groundworks for additional redecoration, internal and external repairs and to replace some of the electrical and mechanical systems that are getting close to the end of their expected life span. There is, of course, no guarantee we will be successful but if all goes to plan, the result will be a complete overhaul of the building.

Our thanks go to the Town Council who have continued to support us and have had to make, at times, difficult but necessary decisions.

We have seen a marked increase in bookings throughout the year with new groups wishing to use the facility – Watercolour painting, Yoga, Zumba Gold. Last year we reported we would provide monthly Tea Dances, themed for 40s-50s music, hoping also to attract the retro and re-enactment groups. This proved far from popular; it seems the target audience is elusive and maybe not as strong as we thought. On a change of tack, we are now holding monthly table top sales which are proving more successful. The committee continues to work hard to investigate and identify new event opportunities.

In addition, we are progressing with an application for a wedding license, looking to tap into this lucrative market. As always, it is the big-ticket events when the bar is booked that provide much needed revenue and our casual dedicated bar staff make it possible to offer this service. We strive to keep prices as competitive as possible. Overall, our fortunes have turned around and, despite the expected holiday period troughs, we are set to make a profit this year.

Finally, the committee and Town Council actively supported the Southam Children's Centre during Warwickshire County Council's restructuring and cost saving proposals. The centre was in danger of closure but now, reclassified as an outreach centre and renamed Southam Children's and Family Centre, has an 18-month stay of execution but was, however, forced to relocate from its former home at Arundel House. The committee submitted a bid to host the service and we are pleased to announce we were successful; the Grange Hall is now the centre's new home. We will be working closely with the Parenting Project and the County Council with the aim of securing a long-term commitment to retain this much valued and needed service in the town.

I should like to thank Mrs Louise Neal (our Caretaker), Mrs Carole Gwillam (our Administrator), the Management Committee members and, in particular, the Town Council for their continuing support.