

When the Community Centre was first opened, Monday mornings were always a hive of activity as volunteers from all over the village descended on the centre for cleaning duties. Without this kind of commitment, the Charity may have struggled to survive. Over time the numbers have dwindled, and the Charity has had to purchase cleaning services. Seventeen years on and due to poor health, the last two cleaning volunteers, Arnold Hornsby and John Chaplin, have hung up their brooms for the last time. All the Trustees and the wider community are indebted to Arnold and John for their hard work and loyalty. We are eternally grateful.

The use of the centre continues to be stable but we have been unable to grow the hire revenue as we would have liked and indeed need. On the positive side, we have benefitted greatly from the significantly reduced fuel costs, spending constraint and the PV panels on the roof, with the electricity generated for the calendar year of 2014 being the best to date.

I mentioned last year that we did not have sufficient support to put on a Summer Fayre. Sadly this was also the case for New Year's Eve and appears to still be the case for this summer – so sorry no Summer Fayre this year.

So what have the Trustees, staff and volunteers been doing?

The reduced numbers of volunteers working for the community centre or for the bar has meant we are concentrating on the day to day operations. The village cooks have provided meals on a number of well attended Friday nights, with much of the profits from these being re-distributed to other village organisations. This time last year we were awaiting a response from SITA to a funding request. Unfortunately, this was declined, but Thanks to the MSDC community funding team, we did finally secure funding in the autumn from a couple of sources. So our 2014 Enhancement Project has now overrun into 2015, with new fencing and water softeners installed and the main hall lighting replaced and improved. Tasks still to be completed are toilet refurbishment, external storage and central heating work.

The list of maintenance jobs and improvements has been revisited. We appear to be getting on top of this, but the planned work for 2015/16 will require reserves will be accessed to fund the expenditure. We have already started, with the old buggy park now enclosed to form a new bar store, allowing a dressing room to be returned to its designed use. Of course further work is dependent upon available volunteer time being available to manage the tasks.

Can I appeal to the village to support activities hosted at the centre and if you can spare some time and have the energy, there is always a job for you to do.

Finally, on behalf of all the Trustees may I Thank the staff and volunteers who continue to contributed so much to the day to day running of the Community Centre.