

Village Hall Management Committee Chairs Report to the Annual Parish Meeting - April 2018

When I reported to you this time last year I said I expected there would be more challenges in the coming year but that hopefully the foundations we had laid this would pay dividends in the next - well I am very happy to say that they have! We managed to secure grant funding of £28,500.00 to complete the toilet works which not only covered the initial cost but the unforeseen extras as well. The improvements have made such a difference and now the doors have also been replaced it is a good job done.

The guttering at the back of the hall has finally been sorted and County came up trumps when damp was found along the toilet walls, they dug out and re-laid the French drain to the side and front of the hall and they really did first class work.

The Parish Council have repaired the surface of the car park which should extend its life by 10 years and the Community Council have installed blinds on the Velux windows. The cupboard in the entrance hall, half funded by the Community Council is nearly finished/has just been completed and I shall really enjoy moving down to the hall all the Community Council stuff I currently house.

Time now to move onto the kitchen refurbishment; because of the National Lottery grant funding we received for the toilet refurbishment we were invited to be part of the Peoples Project, a collaboration between ITV and the National Lottery, for a chance to secure a £50,000 grant. We got through the first round but as our project was of a Capital nature the most we could bid for was £10,000. I didn't feel confident that I could make our project appealing enough to the public vote to secure funding and rather than not succeed decided not to continue. I will now look at general grant funding and see what we can apply for and there are some interesting funding streams becoming available.

It's our hall, built 40 years ago for the benefit of the whole village, today we are charged with maintaining it so it can continue to be a warm and safe environment for everyone to use.

Janne Cutting-Keyton.
Chair Cockfield Village Hall Management Committee