

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008

As heralded in my 2007 Report, Atworth Pre-school Group ceased using our hall from 31st March. To add to this loss of business, the Mothers and Toddlers Group also had to close in the Spring. The resulting major loss in income has been a blow and penny-pinching is now the order of the day. The financial contribution provided by Atworth Parish Council, which reflects community support for our Charity, is now even more vital and our grateful thanks go to them for this.

One beneficial side-effect of these losses has been to release the bier-store, just outside the hall, for its original function. The newly-restored village bier, owned by the Parish Council, came home in the summer.

Thanks to a grant from Awards for All, the ceiling tiles in the hall have been replaced and a new door and windows installed in the football changing rooms. Once again we are indebted to Mavis King for her energy and expertise in obtaining the funds, some £4600, for this work.

In July, we held a Community event to unveil the Village Mural and to raise funds towards purchase of a permanent projector screen for the Hall. The Trustees are very grateful to Jean and Derek Edwards for hosting a cream teas afternoon in their home and garden. This proved a very enjoyable social occasion attended by many villagers: even the weather was kind! Thanks, too, to Mavis for her efforts, together with Rural Arts Wiltshire, in the production of the Mural which records, in tilework, the artistic creations of several village organisations and individual residents. Over £400 was raised, more than enough for a splendid screen which is now in place and much admired.

Our Recreation Ground continues to be well used, with Atworth United Football Club still playing their home games there, notwithstanding some pre-season concerns about their financial position. The grass-cutting contractor, English Landscapes, has again kept the ground in good order throughout the growing season. Many thanks, once more, to John Day and Derek Edwards for all their maintenance and overseeing work. Thanks also to Atworth Youth Club members for renovating the goalposts.

I conclude this report by acknowledging, with gratitude, the continuing support of my fellow Trustees, not least the efforts of the Domestic Sub-Committee, throughout the year.