

**Melmerby Village Hall Committee**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**June 24<sup>th</sup> 2019**

## **Chairman's Report**

The hall is in use on a regular basis by a number of user groups that cover a wide cross section of the population and community organisations. Regular users of the hall over the past twelve months are: Alston Moor & Eden Dance School, Melmerby WI, Gardening Club, Monthly Coffee Morning, Parish Council & Yoga. In addition to these, Jo Falconer has set up a weekly Circuit training group and we have also provided Carrie Philips with a free three sessions trial to set up her 'Mind & Body' course. Users from outside the village include 'East of Eden', The Dialect Society, Highlights, A.O.N.B., Eden Rivers Trust, Singing Workshop, Archaeology Group, Jessica Lambert Yoga Courses and the Eden District Council.

Although we have put on fewer events this year due to committee members' outside commitments, we have still enjoyed much success. Together, with the Church, it was wonderful to see so many people attend our joint commemoration of the ending of WW1 and the sharing of family and village history. A great deal of time and effort went into this occasion and it was gratifying to receive such positive feedback both during and after the event. Monies raised were shared equally between 'Help for Heroes' and 'The Royal British Legion.'

The Christmas Party provided much festive fun for all, with numbers slightly up on the previous year, and although the Xmas party committee have now retired it is hoped that a new committee from the village will be formed. On behalf of the Village Hall, I would especially like to thank Jane Jones for all her hard work and enthusiasm in chairing this group for the last seven years.

The popularity of The Scar Challenge has increased steadily each year, with numbers taking part at an all time high last December. A figure of almost £1000 was raised which is much appreciated by the Hall committee. Congratulations and many thanks to Jason Brownlee for organising this event and also to his team of marshalls, cooks and washer ups for making this such an enjoyable and successful occasion.

The Ceilidh was once again very well attended, providing a great evening's entertainment for young and old alike as have the 'Highlights' evenings with food by Janet Souria. Thank you Helen and Bob for organising these.

A bring and Share supper with live music provided free of charge by Waters Edge was sadly poorly attended despite being a free event, but was none the less much enjoyed by those who did participate.

Thank you to Nicky and Jo for bringing together a good number of Vendors who provided a good variety of products for sale at our first table Top Sale. Unfortunately,

not as many people attended as we would have liked, but we decided it was worth trying again in September 2019.

Events will soon be further enhanced by performance lighting which is on order and has been funded by Eden District Council, Cumbria County Council and the Old Ousby Parish Council. Broadband is now up and running, providing free WIFI to all who use the hall.

Our most valuable source of income is through wedding receptions with nine having been held since our last AGM. Three more are booked between now and December and six so far for 2020. These are often in conjunction with Melmerby Hall and we are most fortunate that Jo Brownlee is able to promote our hall and help co-ordinate these receptions in her role at Melmerby Hall.

An increase in the number of people subscribing to the Village Hall Lottery will also benefit our income and our sincere thanks go to Jill Walls for administering this.

In line with GDPR regulations our Data Protection Policy has been updated. Financially, we are looking quite healthy at the moment mainly due to an increase in wedding bookings and fewer maintenance issues. We are still awaiting a report from the heating engineer as to how best improve the current system. The emergency lighting has been overhauled and updated by Clyde Parsons. A very grateful thank you to Clyde for his generous services.

To improve ease of maintenance in the gardens we have asked a local landscape gardener to provide some plans and costings with a view to getting this approved and completed in time for the 2020 weddings.

Nicky Burrows has arranged for a window cleaner to attend during May, July and September.

The success of the Village Hall is down to those who take part. This is not just the committee, but also those who give of their time to help out at events, to fund raise and to help keep the building and grounds in good order, and of course those who attend our events. These people should be thanked and acknowledged by the committee and the village.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the committee for your continued support and hard work. Thank you.