

Chairman's Report for the Boxted and Hartest Institute AGM – 20th March 2017

I am pleased to be able to say that the past year has seen the Institute continue to maintain an even keel with bookings holding steady. This has enabled us to install emergency lighting which, whilst it is not a legal requirement, the committee felt would be beneficial to all concerned. We have also purchased a new dish washer and water softener as the old one was felt to be time-expired and the maintenance costs were becoming expensive.

This year there are four weddings on the books and the Eastern Angles are returning on the 21st April with a play that has received outstanding reviews. We are also now registered on the Easyfundraising website so that anyone can raise funds for the Institute whenever they make a purchase (for more details go to the www.easyfundraising.org.uk website). Coppers For Coffers continues to prosper and amazingly, since this was instigated, it has contributed in excess of £1000 to our funds.

There are on-going repairs; the pebble dashed wall has been completed and the cellar is due to be cleared to create additional storage. Whilst other work was being done an outbreak of woodworm was discovered under the flat roof and this is in the process of being resolved.

We sadly had to say goodbye to Bob Moore who undertook the onerous task of setting up Health and Safety requirements; he did a sterling job and we are much indebted to the work he did on our behalf. I would like to extend my thanks to all the other members of the committee for their major contribution and in particular to Jo Pask - our Secretary, Peter Chapman - Treasurer, and Trevor Webb who looks after our bookings.

Looking to the future, we have a need for some young blood to come into the fold to help run this very important asset for the community. It is not an onerous task and with more hands the running of our Institute becomes much easier. The Institute cannot progress without a dedicated committee.