

## Report on the Friends of Longworth Church - May 2016

Thanks to the generosity of the Longworth community and various charitable foundations, the repairs to the Church roof were completed in July 2015. The Friends of Longworth Committee is enormously grateful to everyone who donated their time, their money or their ideas to bring the project to a successful conclusion.

We could not have achieved this without the annual firework event which has brought in significant income over the past several years. David Cooke, the tireless fireworks chief, is owed a particular debt of gratitude, as are all his team. Special thanks are also due to the Parish Council which pledged a substantial donation at an early stage of the project and helped us get the fundraising off the ground.

The Church of England authorities in their wisdom require a professional inspection of the Church every five years, and the PCC has recently commissioned the next quinquennial report. We are hopeful that, after the recent major repairs, the architect will not find anything too serious. However, old buildings do deteriorate, as those of us who live in old houses are all too well aware! The Committee all have their fingers crossed for a clean bill of health.

Many of you will be aware that an exciting new initiative has been launched to restore and enhance the ancient bells of St Mary's. This project, which is led by Valia Battat from Hinton, is not within the remit of the Friends. However, we are following its progress with interest and if funds allow we hope to support it financially. A committee is being formed to assist the bells project: please let Valia know if you would like to help.

Once again, huge thanks to the Parish Council for its support with the Church roof restoration. We could not have done it without you!

Fabian French

Chairman, Friends of Longworth Church