Jeremy Barber – Treasurer

Maggie and I came to Longparish in 1980 when the Andover Tax Office was created. We fell in love with the village, so we stayed here when I was moved by HMRC and I commuted for 15 years before I retired, working Whitehall on tax and farming and intellectual property.

I have always tried to be an active citizen. I served on the Parish Council for 28 years including 9 as chair.

I served as school finance governor during the period when the school was transformed from a failing school to the successful one you know now. As part of that process I was a founder member of both the Friends of Longparish School and Longparish Little School.   I was part of the committee that led the school improvements including the new hall, classrooms and Little School which was a £2M project.

I joined the village hall committee as the parish council rep when the hall was semi-derelict, became the treasurer and was part of the group that refurbished the hall to make it the warm and welcoming village venue it is today.

I suppose it was involvement in those projects that led to me being invited to join The Plough Management Committee during the run up to the first share issue. I have been the treasurer since then.

I keep the books, do the banking, pay the bills and the wages, do the VAT returns, liaise with our accountants over the annual accounts, look after grant claims (which raised over £70,000 for us last year) and negotiated with HMRC over the tax relief available to members on the cost of their shares. I chair the Finance Working Group and prepare reports for committee meetings. I guess that takes me about 20 hours a week. I also enjoy working in the garden at The Plough. I mow the lawn which I planted this spring with Maggie and my brother.

It has been hard work but rewarding, especially working as part of the team that brought the pub back to life and nowadays seeing young people who I knew as children in the school running club growing in confidence as they gain experience as members of staff.