

## **Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 by the Trustees of Waldringfield Village Hall**

The Village Hall has had another busy year. The many regular users include the Art Groups, Bridge and Wine Clubs and the Tuesday Sports and Social Club. Organisations such as the History and the Wildlife Groups continue to hold their meetings here. There are various fitness classes including yoga and Pilates. The monthly coffee morning started last year has grown in popularity. The Trustees (who form the committee) again organised a range of events to provide social opportunities and to raise funds for the hall. A very successful harvest supper was well attended as was the winter party which took the form of *The Generation Game*, a most enjoyable evening organised by Mark Wootton involving many families and young people. We are very grateful to Pat Nunn and Joyce Forsdyke for organising the catering for these occasions. Other events have included a visit by *Eastern Angles* travelling theatre and the popular and successful Christmas Quiz again organised by Max and Margaret Pemberton. An interesting series of winter talks has taken place arranged by Gareth Thomas. The village school continues to make use of the hall and we continue to await the County Council's agreement to terms governing the use of the gateway to the footpath and the use of the car park as an emergency assembly point.

The committee continues to give priority to maintaining this major community asset in a first class condition. As well as keeping it in good order week by week there are many jobs to be done – and here Tony Lyon has saved us much time and trouble. Volunteers have continued to undertake garden maintenance and grass cutting. Much is achieved in a convivial spirit on the annual spring clean morning – to be held this year on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April (when all villagers will be welcome to assist.)

Our income comes from a variety of sources to cover the annual cost of running the hall. To keep hire fees down, particularly for village residents and organisations, over 40% of our income has over the years come from our fund raising events and the Village Hall Lottery with over 200 members run by Max Pemberton. Though we have had less income from weddings this year, our earnings from outside hirers have in general been maintained thanks to the conscientious work of the bookings secretary, Donna Morgan. During the year we spent a donation given in memory of Lila Fraser on a glazed noticeboard for displaying photographs of village events. We have also benefitted from the annual grant from the Parish Council which is represented on the committee by Bridget Rayner. The Trustees also decided to devote some of our accumulated reserves on the installation on the roof of solar panels to generate electricity. As well as providing power for direct use these will also be a source of continuing income for the next twenty years from electricity we export to the national grid. All this is helpful at a time when there has been a continuing growth in many areas of our expenditure – including notably the effect of the withdrawal by Suffolk Coastal District Council of discretionary council tax relief on the building. We cannot take future income for granted and, with the help of many villagers, must maintain our fundraising efforts. Our accounts for 2013-2014 will be available at the Annual General Meeting of the charity on a date to be fixed towards the end of May; this meeting will be open to the public.

We continue to be fortunate in having a committee that works very hard for the hall – not only in meetings but in other practical ways. Liz Lord keeps a faithful record of our meetings and Libby Ruffle is editor of our FOCUS newsletter while much behind the scenes depends on the Secretary Trisha Eaton and the Treasurer Stan Baston. The latter has decided to retire from his post at the AGM; we owe a great deal to him for his careful and good-humoured work over the years..

In the forthcoming parish plan consultation residents will be asked how they would like to see the use of the hall develop, particularly increased use by those who currently rarely go there. We look forward to your responses.

*Colin Reid*      Chair of Waldringfield Village Hall Trust