

The Trustees of Waldringfield Village Hall: Annual Report by the Chair (April 2017)

The Village Hall continues to be much used. Regulars include the Art Groups, the Bridge and Wine Clubs and the Tuesday Sports and Social Club run for many years by John Nayler. The History and the Wildlife Groups continue to meet here. Unfortunately the Pilates class has ceased but a more general exercise class has been started. The monthly coffee morning is very well attended. The Trustees (who form the Committee) have continued to organise events to provide social opportunities and to raise funds for the hall. There was a well supported harvest supper with another highly successful entertainment produced by Gareth Thomas and also a winter party which provided another very enjoyable evening arranged by Jules Raines. We are again grateful to Joyce and Bob Forsdike for organising the catering for these occasions. Other events have included the annual visit by *Eastern Angles* travelling theatre and the Christmas Quiz organised by Tim Elliot. An interesting series of winter talks was again arranged by Gareth Thomas. The village school makes use of the hall for weekly gym sessions and one-off events and the car park for parents dropping off and picking up children. We have been glad to welcome Sarah Wood, the Headteacher, onto the Committee. Publicity about events in the hall is circulated to villagers six times a year in the Focus newsletter edited by Libby Ruffle.

The Committee continues to give priority to maintaining our much admired hall in a good condition. Apart from the regular weekly clean and specialist work, we depend on volunteers. Tony Lyon and David Eaton have done a range of small repairs, while a team of others, led by Max Pemberton, have undertaken garden maintenance and the grass continues to be cut by Geoff Lewis. Much was again achieved in a convivial spirit on the recent annual spring clean morning with Pat Nunn and Liz Kennedy giving experienced guidance. During the year the Kennedy Room has been recarpeted, its curtains have been replaced with blinds and the wooden floor in the Main Hall has been resealed.

Our annual income comes from a variety of sources. In recent years hirers have contributed less than 60% of the total and the Committee decided that, with margins narrowing, those who use the building should provide a greater share of incoming resources. After several years without an increase, in January we raised our hire charges (which are reduced for village residents and organisations). External hirers, notably for weddings, provide valuable sums. We are very grateful to our hardworking bookings secretary for the past four years, Chris Lyon, and have welcomed Michele Pierce as her successor. We generate well over £1,000 p.a. from the Village Hall Lottery with over 200 members. This is now run by Nigel King who coordinates the team of volunteer collectors. We have also benefitted from the annual grant from the Parish Council. We are grateful for the efforts of many villagers in contributing to our other fundraising efforts, notably the coffee morning team, Marian and Bim Sharpe who donated the surplus from their successful music afternoon and Liz Kennedy for the proceeds of her marmalade sale. The Committee, under the guidance of our vigilant Treasurer Sue Larsen, continues to run the finances of the hall prudently, building up a reserve to provide for future unforeseen needs and the major maintenance of the building and the car park. **All villagers are welcome to attend the AGM on Monday 12th June at 7.30 pm when the accounts for the year ending 5th April will be presented and the Trustees will be elected. Volunteers to stand for election are warmly invited and can approach an existing member of the team to find out more about what is involved.**

After 15 years as secretary of the Committee Trisha Eaton has decided to retire. She has been punctilious in looking after our paperwork including our annual returns to the Charity Commissioners. She has encouraged successive chairs, given thoughtful guidance to the committee and taken the lead both in maintaining high standards and in bringing about many improvements to the facilities and also to the programme of events. Everyone who has used the hall over the years owes her a debt of gratitude. And in all this she has had David's strong moral and practical support. We are fortunate to have found Marian Bradley as her successor.

Visitors from outside the village often comment on the community spirit in Waldringfield. The hall is well used by many villagers but there are a good number, particularly among the young, who rarely if ever come and the Committee will welcome ideas for drawing them in.

Colin Reid Chair of Waldringfield Village Hall Trust