

Waldringfield Village Hall: Annual Report by the Chair of the Trustees to the Parish Meeting (April 2018)

The Village Hall continues to flourish but more recruits are needed to help in its running. Regular activities include the Art Groups, the Bridge and Wine Clubs, exercise classes and the Tuesday Sports and Social Club run for many years by John Nayler. The History and the Wildlife Groups continue to meet here. The monthly coffee morning, run by an enthusiastic and committed team, draws in large numbers. The Trustees (who form the Committee) have continued to organise events to provide social opportunities and to raise funds for the hall. The harvest supper was very well supported with another highly successful pantomime produced by Gareth Thomas and David Eaton with catering organised by Joyce and Bob Fordike. There was also a very enjoyable winter party involving an evening of dance music organised by Marion and Bim Sharpe. Other events have included the annual visit by *Eastern Angles* travelling theatre and the Christmas Quiz once again mounted by Tim Elliot. Another series of interesting winter talks was arranged by Gareth Thomas to whom we are very grateful as he hands on the baton after five years securing many memorable speakers. 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. 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 envied hall in a good condition. Apart from the regular weekly clean and specialist work, we depend on volunteers. Tony Lyon has undertaken a range of small repairs, while David Ward has joined the committee to coordinate garden maintenance. The grass continues to be cut by our neighbour Geoff Lewis. Apart from a boiler repair we have not undertaken major maintenance this year but significant expenditure is planned for the summer with external painting and an improvement to the car park drainage. **We shall shortly, on Sunday 22nd April from 0900 to 1200, be holding our annual spring clean morning when we expect Pat Nunn and Liz Kennedy to once again give experienced guidance to the committee and other volunteers.**

Our annual income comes from a variety of sources. The Committee decided last year that, with hirers contributing less than 60% of our income, those who use the building should provide a greater share of incoming resources. After several years without an increase, we raised our hire charges (which are reduced for village residents and organisations). External hirers, notably for weddings, continue to provide valuable sums. We generate well over £1,300 p.a. from the Village Hall Lottery with over 200 members and 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. Much day-to-day work is undertaken by our careful new Committee Secretary, Marian Bradley, who also makes our annual returns to the Charity Commission. Our watchful Treasurer Sue Larsen, continues to run the finances of the hall prudently, as we build up a reserve to provide for unforeseen needs and the major maintenance of the building and the car park.

We are grateful to Michele Pierce who as booking secretary has introduced a number of improvements over the past year to streamline the hiring system. We have tried hard to recruit a successor, advertising the post on Waldringfielders and in the Focus newsletter as well as delivering a handbill to every house in the village and approaching a number of individuals – all, as yet, without success. In the meantime the work is being handled on a temporary basis by a rotation of committee members. There are so many in the village who value, use and support the Village Hall that we believe there must be someone in our community ready to take this task on – possibly on a shared basis. If this might be you, please contact Marian Bradley (736126) or Colin Reid (736506) to find out more.

All villagers are welcome to attend the Village Hall AGM on Monday 11th 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.

Colin Reid Chair of Waldringfield Village Hall Trust