

## **Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013 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 Social and Sports Evenings. Organisations such as the History and the Wildlife Groups continue to hold their meetings here. There are various fitness classes including yoga and Pilates. A regular coffee morning has recently started. 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 sold out as was the winter party which again took the form of *Waldringfield's Got Talent*, a most enjoyable evening organised by Mark Wootton involving a lot of families and young people. We are very grateful to Pat Nunn for continuing to take charge of the catering for such 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. The usual series of winter talks has taken place arranged by Gareth Thomas, culminating in another History Group presentation, this time on Waldringfield after the Second World War. We much value our relationship with the village school and we hope soon to conclude an agreement with the County Council about the new gateway enabling the use of the car park as an emergency assembly point.

The committee is determined to maintain this major community asset in a first class condition. As well as keeping it in good order week by week (carefully undertaken by David Eaton) there are many jobs to be done – and here Tony Lyon has saved us much time and trouble. Our major improvement this year was the purchase of a complete set of new chairs with padded seats providing increased comfort for which users have been particularly grateful at our more lengthy events. The old chairs were donated to an educational charity that works in Africa and we paid a donation towards the cost of shipping them to a school in the Cameroon. We have also this year added to the exterior lighting, refurbished the wooden floor and cut back hard all the hedges. Volunteers have continued to undertake garden maintenance and now grass cutting. Further improvements under discussion involve better sound equipment, localised lighting for events, car park improvements and a tidying up of the area outside the front hedge. The roof is very suitable for the installation of energy saving and income generating solar panels if the funds can be found.

Our income comes from a variety of sources to cover the annual cost of running the hall (an average of £15,000 over the last three years). To keep hire fees down, particularly for village residents and organisations, over 40% of our income comes from our fund raising events and the Village Hall Lottery with over 200 members run by Max Pemberton. This year our earnings from outside hirers have increased, thanks to very effective promotion by our new bookings secretary Donna Morgan. We are very grateful for a donation given in memory of Lila Fraser who with Hamish did so much for the hall over many years. We have also benefitted from the annual grant from the Parish Council which is represented on the committee by Bridget Rayner. As with any building there is always something to be done and we need to maintain a reserve to provide for major expenditure in the future. We made a loss in 2010, broke even in 2011, made a surplus in 2012 and should do so again this year. We cannot take future income for granted and, with the help of many villagers, must maintain our efforts. Our accounts for 2012-2013 will be available at the Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of the charity at 7.30pm on 28<sup>th</sup> May; this is open to the public.

We are fortunate in having a committee that works very hard for the hall, with tasks such as revising policies and the more practical setting up for events and annual spring clean. Liz Lord keeps a faithful record of our meetings, Libby Ruffle is the new editor of our FOCUS newsletter while much behind the scenes depends on the Secretary Trisha Eaton and the Treasurer Stan Baston, both of whom have done a great deal to help the work of the hall to develop over the years.

The Trustees will use the opportunity of the forthcoming parish plan consultation to ask residents how they would like to see the use of the hall develop, particularly by those who currently rarely go there, and we look forward to your responses.

*Colin Reid*      Chair of Waldringfield Village Hall Trust