

Waldringfield Village Hall: Annual Report by the Chair of the Trustees to the Parish Meeting (April 2019)

The Village Hall continues to flourish but, as those who have given good and often long service retire, fresh recruits are needed to help in its running. In particular we are now looking for a new treasurer to take over from Sue Larsen.

Regular activities include the Art Groups, the Bridge and Wine Clubs, exercise classes (with a new yoga class) 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 a dedicated group, 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 yet another highly successful pantomime produced by Gareth Thomas and David Eaton. There was also a very enjoyable winter party with catering organised by Ann Stock and a variety of music provided by David Ward and his band. Other events have included the annual visit by *Eastern Angles* travelling theatre and the Christmas Quiz once again mounted by Tim Elliot. The series of winter talks included one by Lord Deben on *Climate Change: overcoming the obstacles* which was attended by 130. 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 fine 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 coordinated garden maintenance. We have incurred major expenditure this year on improvements to the drainage of the car park and in the coming summer we have arranged to have the exterior of the hall repainted. **We shall shortly, on Sunday 26th 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. Only half our income comes from hirers of the premises. We generate over £1,600 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 continue to be very grateful for the efforts of many villagers in contributing to our other fundraising efforts, notably the coffee morning team. The myriad work of day-to-day administration is undertaken by our assiduous Secretary, Marian Bradley, who also makes our annual returns to the Charity Commission. She also manages our bookings helped by a software package introduced with helpful precision by Rachael Metson. Sue Larsen has for the last five years managed the finances of the hall with care and prudence and has recently been updating our procedures. Under her oversight we have been building up a reserve to provide for unforeseen needs and the major maintenance of the building and the car park.

We are looking for recruits to join the Village Hall Committee and in particular someone to take over the role of Treasurer looking after the Hall's accounts. If this might be you, please contact the current Treasurer Sue Larsen (811777) Marian Bradley (736126) or Colin Reid (736506) to find out more.

All villagers are welcome to attend the Village Hall AGM on Tuesday 25th June at 7.30 pm when the accounts for the year ending 5th April will be presented and the annual election of Trustees will take place. 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