CHAIRMAN’S REPORT AGM TUESDAY MAY 8TH 2018

The year April 2017 to April 2018 has been busy and successful one for the village hall.

BUILDINGS AND FITTINGS

A new boundary fence has been erected in the car park. On examination the hedge consisted largely of ivy, dead plants, old fencing panels and old concrete posts and was beyond the point of regeneration. At a joint meeting with the Trustees of the Almshouse it was agreed to replace it with a fence, the cost being shared between the two bodies.

We had a minor crisis last autumn when it was time to renew the insurance policy. Our insurance company asked for a builder’s written guarantee that the roof would be good for five more years. As the roof was put on in 1964 it was clear that we would need to replace it. Thankfully we have been able to obtain grant funding from the Foyle Foundation, and from North Norfolk District Council’s Big Society Fund. Together with generous donations from villagers and some fund raising, we reached our target and the roof is now complete.

A successful bid to the Norfolk Village Hall Fund has enabled us to purchase a new freezer which is in the storage area behind the bar, and also a new microwave for the kitchen.

I am pleased to report that the hall is in good shape at the moment but looking to the future the porch at the front of the building needs replacing and the men’s cloakroom needs modernising.

FINANCES

Overheads on the hall amount to around £3 500 per year and so it is very pleasing that the hall income has continued to increase. The hall is in use on most evenings in the week. Table tennis is very popular and brings in a regular income as does a monthly letting to the WI. The numbers attending the monthly games afternoon and art class are growing, again contributing to a steady income. There have been some outside lettings too, to the Environment Agency for a consultation meeting, and for a willow weaving workshop.

Sadly, use of the village hall bar which is open on Friday evenings is very patchy. In an effort to boost sales carpet bowls has been introduced and this has given a slight increase in takings but on some evenings there are very few customers.

EVENTS

The hall trustees have worked hard to produce a programme of events that appeal. In the past 12 months we have staged a couple of professional productions, a ‘Christmas Carol’ from Keeper’s Daughter theatre company and the Opera Dudes. This latter was sponsored by Creative Arts East. We had our first film show too, thanks to the generosity of Jenny and Tony Little. In addition to these special events, we have continued to provide our usual range of quizzes, talks and meals. Especially popular has been Sunday morning breakfast

THANK YOU

The hall would not be able to function without support from the community and on behalf of the trustees I would like to thank everyone for their continued interest, without which it would not be possible to keep the hall running and up to date. We try to provide a varied and interesting programme and we are always open to suggestions for future events. The hall belongs to the community and we want to put on function that are of interest.

Finally, but not least, I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work and enthusiasm this year. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to keep the hall running efficiently. They are a tremendous team and I am grateful for all the support that they have given me.

Bridget Fielden

May 8th 2018