

Wrentham Village Hall Annual Report to the Parish Council

April 2019 – March 2020

As this is being written, we are in the first week of the government's lockdown and the hall is closed for everything except for cleaning.

The hall is doing very well with lots of use, certainly enough to cover our costs of about £650.00 a month. Our management committee is as keen as ever with Keith Perry and Chris Walliker leading the effort to bring indoor bowls to the village. It has to be postponed for now, whilst the Covid 19 epidemic is dealt with but plans will explode into action, no doubt, when we are open again.

We had planned to replace the toilet floor with a more modern surface but the costs coming in were about £ 2000.00 for each of the main toilets and a little less for the disabled one. Even then we may not have achieved our wish for a cleaner and safer surface, achieving only a change of aesthetics.

We diverted the money to purchase acoustic panels to reduce the astounding echo the hall used to have. The hall had to be repainted which the committee did themselves spending only on paint and brushes. We did not include the ceiling as this was to be almost covered by the panels and most of us were just about OK swaying about on towers at the top of the wall.

A team from the committee cleared the road end of the car park of the roses and laid grass seed so now there is an attractive view of the hall when passing through the village and increased security for the building. This was all topped off by a renovation of the planter by two members of the ladybirds. These 2 ladies along with members of the committee have also renovated the gardens around the hall.

Our grass cutter George Buckenham and his wife Pam, retired at the end of the last cutting season after about 30 years. We have been incredibly lucky to have George and Pam who took great pride in their work. Simon Forder has offered to take their place and the first cut of the year has been done. Joe Vestuto had been acting as our caretaker for the last 3 years but sadly he resigned last summer and so now members of the committee are covering all that is needed. Joe actually did a lot in that time to help the hall and he would do it without counting the cost, which often he took on himself.

For several years we have been looking to improve the main hall heating and also with the desire to find "black" infra-red. At last we have now found 2 manufacturers and are about to place the order. That will be our capital project for the coming year plus also a repair to the drains and possibly some fencing.

We are also trying to prepare for the future, or as people say now, we are in early succession planning for our committee. Age and health means that we need a different management structure and we are looking at the possibility of a part time manager, +/- job share? Flyers are ready to send out to test the water for applicants.

We should like to thank the Parish Council for their continued capital support but most of all thanks are due to all those people on the committee and off, who give up their

time to work on the projects, plan them and attend meetings. Also, thank you to everyone who hires the hall, which is what it's all about.