

Walberswick village hall management Committee

Chairman's Report

6 April 2026

Premises and maintenance

Following several major improvements to the Village Hall and Hall equipment in 2025, this year, 2025 to 2026 was largely focused on maintenance. New liability signs were put up in the new car park and replacement posts put in place at the anchor end of the car park. The audio system was assessed for improvement and it has been decided to upgrade this and to simplify the system for improved access for all Hall users. Low hanging branches on the trees at the front of the hall were trimmed back for safety. The new flagpole was successfully installed in partnership with the parish council and a new heater is on order for the annex.

Find raising and events

As well as the three bingo sessions which were held in the hall in August, an Easter bingo session was introduced on the 16th of April 2025 and was followed up with a further bingo session this Easter. These were highly successful and provided wonderful community events as well as raising significant funds for the maintenance of the hall. The National Theatre live film nights were established across the year and have been well received, particular thanks to Martin and Karen for leading this initiative. Overall proceeds from fundraising events this year raised £4835. Further events and activities included the village pantomime 'Treasure Island' which took place in the village hall, it was a roaring success. The hall has also been the venue for two 'Circle 67' plays, the most recent taking place only last Friday the 1st of May 2026.

Groups such as the WI and History group have put on regular events in the Hall over the year. Once a month the community cafe has taken place, instigated by Christine Mitchell and her team. Other activities such as table tennis, Yoga and Pilates have proved very popular.

There was a very successful village Fete in August enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mitchell and his hard working committee for organising this and to all those involved. The village hall management committee are very grateful for the donation of £6,400 from the Fete proceeds.

The village hall also received a very generous grant of £3000 from WCLT and a wonderful bequest of £10,000 from Roy Whitmore, for which we are extremely grateful. After the significant cost of the improvements to the car park etc. last year, this year finds the Hall finances in a very healthy state.

Personnel

I would like to thank the committee for the tremendous hard work and support this year. There have been no changes in personnel over the year which has helped towards the successful year we have had.

After many tremendous years service to the management of the Hall, Frank Woodcraft will be retiring from the committee. I would like to thank him on behalf of the village hall management committee for all his hard work and support over this time.

Finally I will be stepping down as chair this evening. However, I'm willing to stay on the committee for the coming year if accepted. It has been a privilege to chair this excellent committee for the past two years, I have benefited from being supported by such a dedicated and hardworking team and would like to thank you all for making the job of chairman such a pleasant and easy task. I wish the next chairperson all the very best.

David Neeves