

Walberswick Village Hall Management Committee.

Chairman's Report to Annual Parish Meeting 21 April 2016.

Having concentrated in the Year to March 2015 on improving the building, refurbishing the lavatories, replacing the external and internal doors and windows, the Committee has, whilst continuing to maintain the fabric of the Hall, commenced a programme of improving the internal facilities.

Acoustic panels were therefore researched with a view to reducing echoes experienced by some users. Panels suitable in terms of effectiveness and colour were chosen and installed and are considered to have improved the acoustics in the Hall.

The old microphone has been replaced by a new digital one, with considerable benefit.

For outside events such as the Fete, and national celebrations a new external loudspeaker with stand has been purchased.

We are continuing with a programme of upgrading our technical facilities.

As to the fabric of the building we decided not to continue with timber cladding the front of the Hall due to technical problems, but to clean down the existing brickwork. This has now been done. The dilapidated notice boards either side of the front doors are to be replaced and an order has been placed with a local craftsman for new wooden boards to be constructed.

Painting of internal areas of the Hall and external woodwork in the Foyer has also recently been carried out.

Fund raising has continued throughout the year via events producing both profit and enjoyment for users of the Hall.

Bingo nights during the Summer holidays took place as usual. The Magic Night on 30th January 2016 was a great success resulting in a profit of £1429. From 11th to 14th February J.B Priestley's "When We Are Married" was staged producing a net profit of £1808 after payment of Hall rental of £950.

We are most grateful for £7,000 from our share of the proceeds of the Annual Fete and for the grant of £3,000 from the Walberswick Common Lands Charity.

We extend our thanks to all who helped in any way with these events.

Rental charges have been reviewed with, for the most part little change, thanks, in no small degree, to the income derived from the above activities.

The Committee has lost some very valued and long standing members at this time.

Betsy Lemmon, our most capable Hon Secretary, has stood down but we are very pleased to say that her place has been taken over by Vivian Hunt. Barbara Priestman has also retired after many years of dedicated and very active service. Irene Prinz has also retired from the Main Committee but I am very pleased to say that she has stayed on our Fund Raising team where I know we shall value her energy and ideas. We thank them all for their huge contributions over many years.

It is a sign of a thriving village that we were quickly able to recruit new Members and I am very pleased to be able to welcome not only Vivian, as the new Hon Secretary but also Lavinia Penrhys-Evans and Robin Buncombe. With their help we therefore look forward to what we hope will be another successful year. We have also seen potential further recruits drawn specifically from the younger age groups in the Village who I think will come bursting with new ideas and expertise and I hope to be able to announce additional new members very shortly.

Clive Brynley-Jones

Chair, Walberswick Village Hall Committee.