

Earl Stonham Village Hall Annual Report – 2018-19

Another busy year at the hall with increased usage including regular pub, quiz and computer club evenings organised by the hall committee.

We had hoped to progress the main hall refurbishment this year, but the planned costs have increased substantially and means that even assuming we can get the grants we expect, we are still left with a £5k - £10k shortfall, hence the continued fund raising activity to close the gap. Hopefully a start will be possible during the coming year with the work staged to keep the hall available for use as much as possible.

On a brighter note, quite a few things have been improved over the last year including the addition of a substantial storage shed at the back of the hall that will enable lesser used items to be stored as well as some of the chairs so making more room in the main hall. As part of this work, the emergency exit route from the back corridor has been improved and the one adjacent to the stage will soon be completed.

Other improvement areas have included the purchase of new lighter weight tables for the main hall and the CCTV system has been upgraded to improve hall security.

Regular pub evenings have continued with a different theme for the food each month. Quiz evenings have gone from strength to strength resulting in them out-growing the space in the club room and are now held in the main hall. Thanks to David Wicks and Norman Davis for sharing the role of quizmaster.

Whilst on the subject of events, in February we hosted 'Chocks Away' playing music from the 40s to the 60s and with demonstration dancers to show everyone the steps. This was very successful, with nearly everyone there up on the dance floor at one point!

The Computer Club still holds regular meetings and provides a learning environment for new computer users together with expert advice and assistance with any computer problems. Help is on hand for Windows, Apple and Android platforms, as well as on more general topics like computer backups, security etc.

Bookings have continued to be very buoyant with usage increasing year on year with a number of long term regular bookings. Unfortunately, costs have also increased and we have therefore reluctantly made a small increase in rental charges this year.