

## **Earl Stonham Village Hall Annual Report – 2017-18**

Another year in the life of the hall – now approaching its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!.

After several years of a fairly static level of hall bookings that required additional funding just to cover the running costs, this last year has seen a large increase in usage – up by nearly 50%. A large part of this can be attributed to how comfortable users find the new club room but even main hall bookings have increased. Increased bookings are very welcome as they mean we can afford to keep the hall in better repair but it does mean that a few people have been surprised when they have tried to book the hall and found it already in use. The increased usage looks set to continue so if you are considering using the hall it is definitely worth booking early!

The Village Hall Committee have continued to run a number of fundraising events throughout the year, headlined by the Hullabaloo. For the 2017 event, the weather gods smiled on us for a change and the weather was absolutely superb so for once we did not have to worry about whether we would sell all the ice creams! In the Autumn we held a 'Vinyl Evening' where everyone was invited to bring their favourite vinyl records and DJ Mike played a selection. What it certainly proved was what a wide range of tastes we have in the village. With the sad closure of the Shepherd and Dog, the regular quiz evenings were moved to the hall and thanks to quizmaster Norman, have continued to be very popular, with money raised for a number of good causes. We have also held a number of 'pub' evenings which have proved a real hit and we plan to continue these on a monthly basis.

Unfortunately we have not been able to progress the main hall refurbishment this year as it has become increasingly clear that we need to replace the floor as part of this which increases the costs dramatically and makes it far harder to raise the necessary funds. We are continuing to look at various options, and hopefully will be able to move this forward during the coming year. We have however, undertaken a range of other improvements and thanks to a £1000 grant from Matthew Hicks and donations from the WI, Golden Circle and the PCC, we now have a commercial dishwasher in the kitchen together with a new energy efficient water heater, extractor fan and water softener. Also, thanks to a very generous donation, the small tables used in the club room have been replaced with 'Gopak' lightweight ones and given how successful these have proved, the hall used some of the money raised from fundraising to replace the main hall tables as well.

You may have noticed the large yellow box now attached next to the front door of the hall which contains a defibrillator. This has been procured by the Parish Council and they will be providing further information about its use in due course.

**Tony Turner**

**Chairman - Earl Stonham Village Hall Management Committee**

**For the recorder I will also include a section on 'upcoming events'**