

KELSALE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Annual Report for Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Meeting, 10th June 2009

Recent events at Kelsale Village Hall have been overshadowed by the sudden death of our Chairman, Nick Darton. We know that he will be sadly missed, not only for his calm diplomacy on our Management Committee, but also throughout the Parish where he had spent most of his life and become a well-known, loved and respected figure. However, life goes on, and we have elected Tony Cox as our new Chairman. I am sure that he will add yet another new dimension to our activities.

During 2008 we carried out the complete re-roofing of the North and West facing aspects of the Village Hall, that is all of the roof that is visible from anywhere on the road. Including associated repairs to timberwork and windows that were found necessary during this operation, the total cost was £ 29,339. Funding of this was achieved with the help of an £8,000 grant from Suffolk Coastal District Council, a sum of £5,000 previously set aside by the Parish Council, and over £5,000 from fund-raising activities during 2007 and 2008. There is still much we need to do. The roof at the back of the building still requires attention, and we always have various improvements to kitchen and toilet facilities, disabled access and general decoration in mind. So the Committee will endeavour to spend all available funds as wisely as possible and fund-raising activities will continue. At the same time, we do not want to appear to be always asking for money and nothing else. It is hoped that some of the activities we arrange do improve the quality of life of people in the Parish and help to build a good community spirit. An Art Exhibition, Music Evening and Quiz Night have all become events that take place at least annually and which I believe are well worth doing even if they don't make a profit. A further addition to the calendar in 2008 was an Open Garden event, which is being repeated and greatly expanded this year.

In 2007 and 2008 the Village Hall Committee also took the lead in organizing the Kelsale Carnival. This was very successful, but this year we decided that, with our other commitments, we did not have the personnel to do this. It is felt that a separate Carnival Committee should be formed with people from all village organizations to start early planning for an event in 2010.

Events still to come during 2009 are – Open Gardens on 28th June, a “Treasure Hunt” on 9th August (this one is definitely a fun-for-all non-profit-making event - contact our new Chairman for more details), a Quiz Night on 12th September, and another Music Evening on 3rd October (those of you who enjoyed Jon Gibson's piano-playing last October will be pleased to hear that he is making a return performance). I hope that these events will be well attended and that all the groups who use the Hall continue to prosper.