

## **Tivetshall Village Hall**

The past year has seen a variety of bookings for the hall and it would be fair to say that since the halls' redecoration we have noticed a slight increase in bookings for private parties such as weddings, engagement parties, anniversary parties and those that celebrate landmark birthdays. Unfortunately due to a couple of instances the committee have now put stricter limits on hirers for under 21 parties. Our experience has been that some parents do not take responsibility for controlling an event properly, to the extent that a recent party for a 16-year-old girl was cut short. The advent of the internet/facebook has made private parties of this age group much more difficult to police and control, as literally hundreds of teenagers can be invited at the click of a button; we realise this may seem unfair to some villagers but have had to react to protect both the village and the hall.

We recently lost one of our regular hirers but other private hires have enabled us to keep our income relatively stable, however due to cut backs we are now about to lose 2 bookings a month, as Diss Children's centre cut back their weekly bookings to every other week.

This is where it is important for local people to come forward and support some of the local clubs, both those that need members or just people to assist with the running of such clubs such as rainbows. As far as the hall committee is concerned it is our responsibility to provide a clean, warm and safe environment in which clubs can run and events can take place, the more people use the hall the more income we generate allowing us to keep making improvements without the need to raise hire fees which have been at the same level for nearly three years now.

Maintenance of the hall; Last year we hired a professional company to refinish the floor, unfortunately the result was not what we were promised and efforts to correct the faults have met with very little return communication. We are not expecting to pay for the work carried out and have recently secured further quotes to completely strip, sand and refinish the floor which will take place during early summer out of term time. We have also been out to tender for the replacement of some of the paths around the hall car park area, and hope for some dry weather so that we can carry out these essential repairs soon. The lights around the hall have been an issue with persons unknown climbing onto the roof to unseat the fuses so that the lights will not illuminate the car park area; we believe we have now resolved this issue.

The heating system did cause some issues last year but appears to be working well after several engineers' visits, we continue to monitor this and keep a contingency fund should major repairs be required.

Financially we have continued to keep our expenditure below our income levels, which has seen our reserves gradually increase despite the costs of the work that we have carried out on the hall. We are conscious that we need to keep a reasonable reserve to ensure the hall remains open and able to continue to make an income. We are confident that the current level of available funds of £9,513.56 enables us to do that and to make further improvements to the facilities in the hall. For example improved cooking facilities are one of the things on our wish list and we would also like to explore the possibility of making better use of the stage area and provide more storage for chairs etc. We will be exploring the availability of grants that we may be able to apply for to help us improve these facilities.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Village Hall Committee who give up their time to ensure that the hall is available for others to hire. We have a small but dedicated team and all play their part in the success of the hall, if any one would like to join our successful team then please have a look at our web site and contact any members of the committee for details.