



Kelsale Village Hall

Registered Charity No. 267376
Bridge Street
Kelsale
IP17 2PB

KELSALE VILLAGE HALL REPORT TO KELSALE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13 APRIL 2022

1. I am pleased to present this report to the April 2022 Annual General Meeting. Overall, this has been a successful year for the Village Hall, despite continuing problems caused by the pandemic. We have increased the funds available to the hall, the issues arising from the theft by the former treasurer, A J Bouton, have been resolved and we have held a several very well received social and community events.
2. We have benefitted from the support of Cllr Stephen Burroughes who secured funding for painting the exterior of the hall. We hope that this work will be undertaken in June. We are extremely grateful to Cllr Burroughes for his help. The redecoration will enhance the appearance of the hall and is the first step towards several improvements to the building. We have also received several government Covid-19 Business Grants which mean we have been able to progress our planning applications for various essential improvements. These include a fire escape from the Committee Room, lightning protection and, we hope, eventually, a lift and disabled access to the first floor. Our cash balances are currently healthy – see The Treasurer’s annual report. We are also making an insurance claim for the theft of funds (see above). This grinds along at a snail’s pace, but we will strenuously pursue it!
3. In January 2022 ex-treasurer and trustee, A J Bouton, was sentenced to 14 months for theft from the Village Hall. To see the matter resolved was a real relief so that we could put it behind us. Bouton’s crime caused great worry to many people in the village, especially our previous chair and committee members. We are glad that it is over. However, we heard recently that Bouton has applied for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal against his sentence. Please bear in mind, since he pleaded guilty, he cannot appeal against conviction. The appeal is limited to the length of the sentence. I will keep the Committee informed of developments. We very much hope he is not given leave to appeal – it would be a dreadful waste of public money given his guilty plea.
4. Events held over the year ranged from the Quiz and Flower and Produce Show to the fabulous Dress Up Saturday organized by Julia Ewart and our weekly coffee mornings. Kayleigh Stubbs has kept the coffee mornings going as a lively regular event in the village, appreciated by many as a source of social contact, especially during the difficult months of the pandemic. The coffee mornings through Kayleigh’s work have raised more than £500 which is most helpful for KVH funds.
5. We are planning several events this year including a quiz, art exhibition (and hoping to revive a Village Hall tradition with it), a line dance and Christmas Fayre. We want to create traditions of events, so they are expected parts of the village calendar. We hope the Art Show and Flower and Produce Show become parts of that tradition.
6. There are many people to thank for their support, particularly Cllr Stephen Burroughes, Alan Revell, Edwina Galloway and Claire Buttle. We are also grateful for the support we have received from the Clerk to the Parish Council who has given valuable practical advice about organising and insuring events. All the members of the Committee have worked exceptionally hard for the success of the hall – Kayleigh Stubbs, Peter Ewart and Simon



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Ransome deserve special mention for their work on events, our accounts and on the building and planning matters. We were also delighted that David Granville-George agreed to become a trustee of the hall again this year. David has brilliant practical and historical knowledge of the hall, a good business brain and is extremely effective at organising our 100 Club which goes from strength to strength. Thanks to the whole Committee. We are very grateful to Kelsale Social Club for its work with us and essential contribution to our events. It's with sadness I report that Liz Flight, a long-standing supporter of the Committee, stood down for personal reasons during the year. She is very much missed as such an active and capable committee member. Also, Chris Burslem (who has steadfastly worked for the Committee and the benefit of the village hall, both while a Parish Councillor and following his resignation from the PC) has decided not to seek re-appointment as a trustee and committee member. On behalf of the Committee, I extend heartfelt thanks to Liz and Chris for their work.

7. Above all, thanks to the local residents who have stood by us through the difficult months and attend our events and support our fundraising.

Mary Clarke

Chair

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