

LITTLE THETFORD VILLAGE HALL
(registered charity 1055086)

Chairman's Report for AGM. 16 June 2011

The village hall continued through 2010 to serve the people of Little Thetford in its position as the only venue within the village for the holding of public meetings, parties, celebrations and similar events. As in previous years the hall was let at very attractive market rates and remained a popular venue for people from the wider Ely area as well as local residents. Despite the hall's only income coming from lettings, concessionary charges (or no charge at all) were granted to village organisations with limited or no funds of their own. It housed, and continues to do so, the weekly post office at no charge.

Due largely to the paucity of Trustees and other calls on the time and energies of those who remain active, fund-raising events put on by the hall Trustees were reduced with the resultant loss of some £300 in revenue over the previous year. Although the cost of services increased over the year (to year end 31.12.10) by £600 other expenditure remained more or less the same whilst unfortunately income from lettings fell by £2,000. The deficit of income over expenditure of £2,692 (actually £37 less than the previous year) was maintained by only carrying out essential maintenance and repairs and making no specific improvements to structure, decoration or amenities despite the overall appearance both inside and out becoming rather 'tired'. The Trustees recognise that decoration at the very least if not the improvements that are becoming increasingly necessary to, for instance, the kitchen and toilet areas, will need to be carried out very soon if the hall is to maintain its appeal to hirers and thereby stabilise its income over the next few years. To that end it is very likely that hiring charges will have to be raised for the next financial year.

As no major expenditure was contemplated during the year, and there were no emergencies or complaints that required the attention of all Trustees, meetings were very much reduced, which had the added bonus of acting as an incentive to Trustees to continue in post. Consequently the hall business was effectively carried out by the efforts of a small executive of officers (the chairman who also acted as booking officer, the treasurer and other individual Trustees whose advice was sought as necessary.) I can report that your treasurer has agreed to stay in post for at least the current year and your chairman has been persuaded likewise (assuming that it be your wish that both officers continue to act in those positions.) It must not be assumed that they, or indeed other Trustees, will be able to serve indefinitely; fresh blood is needed and additional Trustees are, as always, urgently required. It will no doubt be a pressing concern for Trustees over the coming months to identify new Trustees and to find the finance to put into train the improvements already mentioned. The ownership of the hall is invested in the Charity Commission. However, if new Trustees are not forthcoming in the very near future it may well become necessary to seek the advice of The Commission and other bodies as to alternative methods of ownership & management, if that would be at all possible. The Trustees maintain the hall's partnership with the Sports & Social Club, the Parish Council and the Sports Field project. The village hall was subscribed to and funded in the early 1950s so has, for most people, always been here. Hard work by current and new Trustees and by the community is needed to ensure that the village hall remains and continues to serve the people of Little Thetford.

Robert Bullen
(chair of Trustees)

June 2011