

I am happy to report that the Village Hall and Playingfield both continue to be in regular use.

Daytime activities at the hall include: Art Classes, Carpet Bowls, Dance for Pleasure, Keep Fit Classes and a therapy group for Downs Syndrome children.

Evening activities at the hall include: Badminton, Ballroom Dance Classes, Carpet Bowls, Miniaturists, and Phoenix Dance Group. The hall is also used for theatrical rehearsals and productions by Bealings School, Bealings Youth Action Theatre and some productions by Mustard Theatre.

We have a good number of ad hoc hirers for private parties and dances as well as other entertainments arranged by the committee. We also have regular bookings for the Snooker room and the Committee Room.

The Car Park continues to be used by parents of Bealings School as well as a number of walking groups who use the car park as a base since the Parish Council publicised its Bealings Walks leaflet.

We had 38 households subscribing to the Sports Court for the 2011 season. The availability of Tennis Coaching has been a great boon. The Playingfield is home to the Melton Exiles Boules team. We also hosted the Tri-Village Challenge on 2011 Suffolk Open Weekend.

The Management Committee has been busy again this year arranging essential upgrades and maintenance of the building.

We completed the redecoration of the hall inside and out with the help of the Probationers Trust - we paid for the materials and they did the work. And contractors have repaired the damp-proof course in 2 places.

We continue to upgrade old equipment and this year have replaced all the lights and two heaters which had failed in the main hall. Having upgraded the electrics last year and the internal emergency lighting, this year the Fire Service has advised us to install external emergency lighting, new safety locks on some doors, a smoke alarm and an additional fire alarm sounder. This work is almost complete.

The main roof continues to be a problem - we are still experiencing leaks under certain weather conditions and based on advice from a building surveyor we are now having to

invest another
£1,500 to address the problem.

Other work affecting the Hall has included the completion of an action required by the Joint Parish Plan to install a lamppost providing security lighting for the car park which has been arranged by the Little Bealings Parish Council using its special powers and funded by both Parish Councils and a grant from Parish Plan funds.

For the playingfield, a number of safety improvements have been sponsored by Suffolk County Council including the removal of a bar across the footpath and installation of a swing gate at the bottom of the playingfield as well as Warning Triangles on the approaches to the Playingfield. The grass plateau is in poor condition due to lack of rain in the summer and we have had to reseed parts of it twice but major works may be needed.

The Village Hall and Playingfield is a shared facility on behalf of the Bealings communities and is run as a Charitable Trust. Our finances are audited annually by an independent auditor and also monitored by the Charities Commission.

The management committee has a policy of holding reserves to the value of one year's base operating costs. For the year ending April 30th these were £3,973 for Hall and Car Park; £2060 for Playingfield and Sports Court. We are also building a fund to replace the flat roof which currently holds £1,000 and need to build a fund for major repairs to the playingfield.

The Village Hall income for the year to May 2011 totalled nearly £11,000 which is made up from bookings totalling £8,300. Other receipts included £1,250 as a Suffolk County Council grant towards car park repairs, £610 raised during events held; £665 donation from each of the Parish Councils and £150 from FOBS towards car park repairs. In the same year, expenses totalled nearly £14,000 which is made up of £4,000 in base costs (such as insurance, utilities, cleaning) and £2,600 on the car park, £7,240 on essential upgrade work. Overall the hall made an operating loss of nearly £3,000 last year and with energy prices rising we have had to increased our hire charges. The new rates started last September for all hirers except those involving school and youth groups. Local residents continue to get preferential rates.

The Playingfield income up to May 2011 totalled nearly £4,000 which is made up of £1,805 income from the Sports Court, £1200 from donations and grants of the Parish Councils and £609 from fundraising the Open Suffolk Weekend. Our expenses as at May 2011 totalled almost £3,200, half of which related to project work such as fencing the top of the field, replacing an old wooden bench.

Finally, I must thank representatives of Great Bealings, Eric Barnett for his excellent Quiz evenings, Robin for carrying out an Energy Audit and practical help with draught-proofing and Julian who still helps to promote and administer the Sports Court.. As well as the excellent support from Peter Bellfield our County Councillor.

Invitation to the Annual General meeting..... Monday 21st May 2012.

Jenny Shaw
Chairman of Trustees
Bealings Village Hall