

## **BLEASBY VILLAGE HALL**

Chair's Report 2025

We have, thankfully, not had any really unexpected events this year, and our financial position remains stable, thanks to careful money management. We have a number of regular bookings – Parish Council, WI, U3A Folk Group, Stich and Sew Group, History Society, Friendship coffee mornings, and keep fit groups. We also have some ad hoc bookings, and this year welcomed a New Year's Eve gathering, which passed off well. All these bring in welcome revenue.

Our major expenses are the insurance and electricity costs, which always seem to be increasing. There will be a 5-yearly electrical inspection this year – I think the last one cost around £5,000 because of upgrades which were necessary, so we wait with bated breath to learn what we need to do this year. We do know that a new heater is required at the back of the stage.

We continue to discuss how to improve the car park, but have not yet come up with a solution – I think we all realise that whatever we do will be expensive. And there are always things which need to be done – the front door was re-varnished this year, the back door needed attention. Some of this we can do ourselves – actually it is usually Edmund who does this – but sometimes we call in professionals.

We were grateful to the WI who staged a fire drill which helped us to understand the best way to quickly evacuate the hall in an emergency. From memory I think it was just over 3 minutes from a fire being called to the completion of a roll call across the road. The hall was in fact fully evacuated in around 60 seconds, and we learned the best way to ensure that people exited by the best means for them.

This year we were very pleased to have Nicola Winn join us as the Parish Council representative. As always I have very grateful for the continued support of 'the team' – Alison, Edmund, Barbara, Jenny, Christine, Monica, Bernice, Viv and Nicola -who all contribute so much to the proper management of the hall. I have probably said this before, but it is worth reminding everyone that we are all getting older, and it would be great if we could encourage some new, younger, blood to join us. So please spread the work.

In the meantime I hope everyone continues to enjoy using our lovely village hall.

Finally, our next meeting will be on 14 May, when we have our AGM followed by an ordinary meeting. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us.

That concludes my report.

*Lynda Ogilvie*

*23 April 2025*