

Colton Village Hall
Norwich Road
Colton
NR9 5BY
March 2021

Chairman's Report

2020/2021

As for every other aspect of life, the past year has been a unique one for the village hall.

Since March 2020 the hall has been closed, there have been no events or meetings at all. All the usual sources of revenue, the weekly users, the bingo evenings, summer barbecue, have not happened. Yet, despite this, the hall is in as secure a position financially as it has been for many years, thanks to government grant support. We are now able to look at upgrading and replacing some of our old equipment and can tackle the refurbishments needed to maintain the hall without depleting the hall's funds to unacceptably low levels.

The year has not been without incident at the hall. In the early summer the outside electricity box was damaged by thieves or vandals; Network Power was able to check and repair at no charge.

In September a family of Travellers set up an illegal encampment on the hall car park. Swift action through the use of bailiffs meant that the site was cleared within 48 hours, keeping the disruption to a minimum. Even so, there was a considerable amount of litter and mess left behind.

On advice from the Broadland District Council enforcement officer, barriers were installed and lockable posts positioned across the front of the car park to prevent any further occurrence. All this action came at a considerable cost and we are grateful to the Marlingford and Colton Parish Council for their financial support.

Looking ahead to the next 12 months I am hopeful that the end of restrictions will bring some normality back to village hall life and that the regular groups will return.

For personal reasons I will be stepping down from the committee at this AGM; I know that the village committee will continue to thrive with the new chair and I wish everyone the best for 2021.

Dominic Castle

Chairman,

Colton Village Hall committee