

Brisley Village Hall 2016-17

The Village Hall Committee are pleased to inform the Annual Parish Meeting of the following.

June 12th of 2016 saw our Village Hall packed to capacity to celebrate the 90th Birthday of H.M Queen Elizabeth, all age groups came along to participate in the afternoon, a personal invitation was extended to each villager who had either already reached their 90th Birthday or who were in the 9th decade of their lives, it was so good to see 14 Brisley Villagers at the top table that day, at one point they were joined by our youngest villager who was aged just a few months old at the time. A centrepiece cake was made along with a selection of sandwiches, cakes provided by the Village Hall Committee and in true street party style tradition the folk of Brisley brought along a plate.....or 2!! A memorable day rounded off by us joining together to sing Happy Birthday and God Save the Queen accompanied by Mr Tait on his accordion.

Another major event was staged by Brisley Social, A Strawberry Tea was held on June 25th when a grand total of £543 was raised for research into Breast Cancer. Brisley Social coffee mornings are now a well-established part of Village Life, organised, run and patronised by a willing group of talented cake makers and/or cake tasters.

In September, the "eagle (Eddie, that is) landed in Brisley, heralding the arrival of Village cinema, the purpose of this venture is to bring entertainment to Brisley and also to improve social cohesion in our community, we aim to show mainstream films suited to all ages regularly on the 3rd Friday of each month. Other ideas to further enhance the variety of films shown and also to improve the audience experience are being discussed and planned.

October, and St Bart's held the annual Harvest supper, locally supplied sausages to accompany mash and peas was a different type of harvest supper, apple pies and cheeses made up dessert and a jolly good feast was had by everyone.

In December we were entertained by Rockavox, a rock choir from Dereham, food was served, songs were listened to and joined in with, but without doubt their version of Bohemian (turkey) Rhapsody, dressed in turkey hats will live long in the memory of those who came along.

It was also good to see our hall decorated for Christmas once again.

The Hall continues to be used for variety of events and functions, specifically, Zumba weekly on Monday mornings, the Table Tennis club on Sunday evenings, a weekly Pilates session aimed by and large at horse riders and on Thursday's 2 sessions of Pilates.

Numerous children's parties have also taken place, alongside two very well attended Quiz nights, organised by Brisley Cricket club and its supporters.

We are also pleased that Brisley Parish Council choose to hold their monthly meetings here in the Hall and that Brisley Age UK has returned to the hall as a base.

The Village Hall committee is happy to be able to provide a solution to Mr Kerrison's quest for a facility in which he can store some gardening equipment.

Away from the wide variety of events much has been happening behind the scenes, we applied for and were successful in getting a grant from the Norfolk Community Foundation which provided funds for new window coverings, more chairs and some new tables.

Our statutory Electrical Installation report caused some concern, in order to be compliant with regulations a new distributor board was installed, new emergency lighting is to be fitted very soon along with the removal of the last remaining car park floodlight, (2 were blown down by storm Doris), our thanks to a local farmer and Messrs Denis and Cobby for tidying up the area. All portable electrical appliances have been tested and certified.

Currently an application for a Premises Licence is being processed by Breckland Council on our behalf, another step towards achieving compliance for all events planned at the hall and further making hiring a more attractive proposition.

In the past year a cooker, refrigerator and freezer have also been installed and the Village Hall remains available for hire at very competitive rates and the committee would welcome new ideas for events, and any villager who would like to help the committee organise future events would be most welcome at our monthly meetings.