



# Kelsale Village Hall

Registered Charity No. 267376  
Bridge Street  
Kelsale  
IP17 2PB

## CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO AGM 3 MARCH 2021

I am pleased to present this annual report to the KVH Committee AGM for the year March 2020 - 2021

This has been a busy year for the Committee.

- 1. Membership and constitution of the Committee.** During the year, Eileen Cuthbert, Sue Granville-George and Jenny Bridson resigned as Chair, Secretary and as Trustees. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to express my thanks to them for their efforts on behalf of KVH and the community over the years, particularly latterly when many challenges had to be faced. Our thanks also go to Ellen Denny for her service to the Committee as Kelsale Social Club representative. Bertie Buttle has taken over the role of KSC representative from Ellen and we thank him for his agreement to act and ongoing contributions to the Committee. Sarah Scrivener also joined the Committee and was extremely helpful in drafting our mission statement, but due to family commitments has now resigned. Since the resignations of those members, we have been joined by new Trustees and Committee members. We are grateful to Kayleigh Stubbs for providing continuity with the Trustee Body. Chris Burslem, Simon Ransome, Peter Ewart\* and myself became trustees and Caroline Harker and Kerry Vince joined the committee, while Simon Francis and Liz Flight continued as members. We are most grateful to all for their attendance at meetings and considerable contribution. Finally David Granville-George has continued to manage the 100 Club supported by Sue and does an outstanding job for us and we express sincere thanks to him. The former treasurer A J Bouton was removed from the Committee in May 2020.
- 2. The current climate.** This has been a very difficult time for KVH due to the impact of the pandemic on our ability to meet and also to hold any kind of event, which has been considerably curtailed. This affects our income and support for the hall but we remain optimistic that things will improve over the coming months in light of the government road map to opening up again.
- 3. Building Condition and Repairs.** The condition of the building continues to cause concern. We hope to be the recipients of Parish Council Community Infrastructure Levy funds, which would enable us to take steps such as potentially securing disabled access to KVH. Some essential maintenance works are underway. We have engaged an architect, Tim Buxbaum, following a recruitment process by the Committee, to measure up the building and give consideration to all and any ways in which we might make the building more accessible. There are no fixed plans or ideas and we are hoping he, as an expert, will come up with ideas which may find support in the Committee and the Community, of course not forgetting Kelsale Social Club with its tenancy in KVH and long traditions. Any changes will be consulted about as widely as possible. They must be sympathetic to the building and its occupants and take account of its Grade 2 listed status. Apart from anything else, it is essential that we have wide support for any changes, otherwise we will be in no position to raise funds for alterations or improvements. The saying goes that you mend your roof in the summer. The lockdown represented a good time for changes to be made when the building was not permitted to open by law. However, given the need to secure community support and funds, we now realize it is most likely that changes, if any, will take some considerable time.



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Overall, we know from the Parish Council consultation on CIL monies that improvements to KVH featured highly in people's wishes for spend of the monies and making the building more accessible, especially with our ageing population is the right thing to do. It is also compliant with legal obligations to support people with disabilities. We remain optimistic that the plans may eventually come to fruition in some form, taking careful account of the views of all stakeholders.

4. **Challenges ahead.** Our key challenges are
  - a. to maintain KVH as a vibrant centre at the heart of the community. We hope to have wider consultation over the coming year on hopes and aspirations for the hall. We also hope to be in a position to hold events centred on the hall once we are allowed to reopen.
  - b. to attract more local support – and will work over the year to raise our profile locally in the hope that more Committee members may join in order to spread the workload more; and to
  - c. continue to seek a mutually agreeable proposal for disabled access to the hall, which can be agreed by all stakeholders as this would very much benefit the community generally.
5. **Conclusion** - thanks again to all who have worked for KVH and the Committee. I know it can be a thankless task and all support and help is most gratefully received. Thanks also to the PC for their unstinting support and particular thanks to Peter for stepping in to help us as treasurer.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me – by phone or email or at the meeting itself.

**Mary Clarke**

**KVH Committee Chair**

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6. \* Peter replaced Sue and Simon who stepped into the Treasurer role when the former treasurer A J Bouton was removed from the Committee in May 2020.