

Village Hall Report

I can report a difficult year for the Hall, but one with some successes. The usual mix of activity at the Hall took place in the early part of the calendar year – cultural, social and sporting (badminton, and exercise classes). We were looking forward to a good year of usage, but of course all that changed with the succession of lockdowns and varying restrictions since the arrival of Covid.

We locked down for a few months, attempting to reopen in a safe way during the late summer, following guidelines for safe use. We were able to welcome some users back during that period, including staging an art show by local artists, which was a success. We were also able to welcome the Scouts to the Hall, as they were unable to use their own premises. Sadly, this was for only a limited time before we were locked down again. We are currently working to reopen again. We will see for how long this lasts this time.

We decided as a committee to use the closed time to continue our updating of the Hall. We have updated the heating system, cleared the store room, and carried out essential maintenance to the roof. We have also repainted the inside of the Hall, something we have wanted to do for a while. The Hall is now fitted with wifi, which may allow more flexible use.

Obviously, we have taken a major revenue hit, but we have been able to fill the gap with successful grant applications, which have enabled us to meet our continuing costs such as utilities, and have provided some surplus cash to enable us to do improvements, thereby making us better able to welcome customers back when we reopen. This money has also helped fund the investment in the asbestos report required to welcome the scouts. We have continued fund raising via our long standing and successful 100 Club.

We are currently awaiting the outcome of a further grant request, and will look to see if we can carry out any further improvement works. Both the bar area and kitchen need work. We also need to find a solution to the acoustic problem which has become worse in the Hall since the curtains have been removed.

The Committee continues to work hard. We have had a stable membership through the year. My thanks to them. We have used a mix of zoom and (when rules have allowed) socially distanced meetings. They are doing their best to maintain and improve this key aspect of village life on behalf of our users, who we ex-etc to return as soon as they are able.

I stood down as Chair in March, and since then a further Chair has taken up the role and since stood down. The Committee is currently in the process of electing another.

Jon Wild

