

Report on Village Hall activities 2020 and 2021

February 2020 was the last time we had activities in our Village Hall. In March we had planned a Special Afternoon tea in support to Poppy Appeal, but new restrictions taken by government cancelled that event.

We also lost all our club and group activities from March 2020.

We did all what we could in April and May, after a full COVID Risk Assessment to set up and organise the Hall by investing in all necessary protections, signages, gels and products to be able to re-open safely - unfortunately this has not been possible up to now.

The Camera club had originally proposed to come back 1st of July but they informed us in June that the committee is postponing the return to weekly meetings till September and then till further notice due to the high percentage of members being over 60.

The bridge club due to social distancing rules could not consider coming back till all clear. The yoga team tried a few meetings when authorised with proper distancing and limited participants, but it was not economically viable and stopped.

So, the team has used the opportunity to paint and redecorate the toilets, to finish the installation of the kitchen with the new appliances and cooking material, to change the flower arrangement outside, to clean the carpark where local residents had dropped bags of material and clothes, to clear, clean and re-organise the space under the stage and to consider what is needed to be done before our new opening this spring.

- 1- Repair and paint the front of the stage.
- 2- Reinforce the mobile stair set for the stage.
- 3- Repair the toilet next to the stage (which has a leak and needs a new part).
- 4- Repair and paint some of the boards used during the Art Exhibition.
- 5- Paint part of the walls in the main hall and the meeting room.
- 6- In April empty and clean the gutters.

As main activities for the future of our hall we still plan before May 2021 to:

- 1- Install a proper reservation system which will be linked to our website and will give everyone a better view of the activities and reservations made.
- 2- Set up new contract to be used for every event or meeting
- 3- Improve the web site with new text, new photos and new rates.
- 4- Set up a minimum marketing plan to promote the hall.
- 5- Set up a mini-investment plan to keep the hall in proper condition based on our monthly maintenance report.

As regards financing we received a £10,000 grant from SODC and with the new boiler paid by the PC, we can support the running of the hall with no revenues.

Some savings have been made on salary expenses since January.

Our budget for 2021-

We ended 2020 with £6800 in credit. With the assumption that business was coming back slowly from January we forecasted a positive year end of 2021, including the annual PC contribution of £1000. With up to the first 6 months of 2021 with no business, our finances could become a challenge. As soon as we know when we can properly have the clubs and groups returning to the hall, we will redo a budget for 2021 and will present it to the PC. We are finalising documents for our new bank account. It was a big surprise to be told, totally out of the blue and with no explanations, that HSBC had decided to close our bank account. All discussions with them could not solve the situation. We have approached Co-Operative bank and we hope to have a new bank account before we resume activities at the hall.

We would like to mention the fence behind the Village Hall. We have to accept that it looks cleaner than the old one but does not help with the luminosity inside the hall. JMG has been discussing with the group installing the fence to see if we could improve the situation. All in all, it has been a very challenging time for all village halls, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back.

February 2021