

GROOMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

It has been another odd year, but with a lot of dedicated work by our team of dedicated volunteers and financial help from the Government, local councils and local trusts we have weathered it very well. Pre-school were our sole user until April and were delighted to be able to offer help to parents who needed their children to be in school. The staff did all their own cleaning and kept the Hall very secure. We did have a couple who hired one of the rooms to practice ballroom dancing on a regular basis.

During lockdown we were able to complete a number of tasks and the financial support we had from local government enabled us to pay for them. Tony Howell has circulated a report, but I will list them -

We have put up a fence to discourage casual parking in the hall carpark which seems to be working, resurfaced the new hall floor, installed new taps in the toilets, installed a new Tensor entry and heating system. We replaced all our lights with LED bulbs and for this particular item we received grants from Withyham Parish Council and Gatwick Airport Trust. We thank them very much for this, David for applying for them, and Simon Woods who does so much work to keep the hall well decorated.

The other exciting thing which has happened this year is that GVH has been able to help Groombridge Men's Shed to realise their ambition to create their shed on the edge of WDC carpark. We agreed that they could tap into our water, sewage and electricity systems. They did this most efficiently and it did not, and will not, cost us anything as we have set up separate meters. We wish them every success. It is great that GVH has been able to work with another village organisation in this way.

Duncan does not give a bookings secretary report to the AGM, but we will receive it at the Committee Meeting which follows. The Hall was fully re-opened as soon as Government regulations permitted at the end of September. Our bookings are almost back to pre-pandemic levels with most of our regulars returning.

It just remains for me to express our grateful thanks to Tony and Duncan who have been brilliant during the last year and checking every week that all was in order. You will see from Tony's report how conscientious he has been. We are extremely lucky to have both of them.

Thanks also to Tony Bossons who has kept our financial affairs in order and made sure that we received the grants which were available. Also our thanks go to John Francis who audited our accounts for several years, but has now retired.

Thank you too to David who has been on the ball chasing grants and for his very concise minutes and other secretarial duties, and keeping me on track!

Also thanks to the Committee who turn up regularly and offer their valuable help and advice. And to the gardening team who keep the outside of the hall looking lovely.

Last but not least thank you to our regular users who support us and take care of our hall when they are using it.

The Hall is a very valuable asset to the community of Groombridge and the wider area and we are very lucky to have so many people who are willing to help run and maintain it.

Sue Homewood, Chairman.