

Westbury Village Hall

Chairman's Report for April 2020 to March 2021.

This has been a year dominated by the government requirements over the Covid-19 pandemic. The Hall has had a small amount of use from August through to the beginning of November, so the Hall has been closed for 9 months over the year. Thank you to Sue Reece and Jackie Laws for going in to 'use' the washing up machine and the Lincat water heater to check them over after so long unused.

In April 2020 Paul Childs painted and repaired the outside woodwork on the south and east sides of the Hall, and re-painted the rendering. I hope you will agree that the Hall is looking very smart. In early September Martin Hocking did a variety of small electrical works as recommended by the electrician involved in installing the new kitchen last year. These included extra sockets, upgrade of switches, replacement of lights and test keys for the fire escape signs.

We still aspire to replace the chairs but with the ongoing need to disinfect and wipe surfaces we are waiting until upholstered chairs become practical again.

In August the kitchen was used to make pizza dough which brought in the first income of the year. Through September until the beginning of November the hall was variously used by 4 or 5 table tennis players; 5 or 6 with Kettlercise sessions; the Art Group; the Wells Cook Circle; the Gardening Club and the Wookey Hole Geology group. The limited numbers, hand sanitising and surface wiping became nearly second nature. Rosie Webb did a sterling job with extra cleaning sessions each week fitting between the various Hall users during this time. She was otherwise furloughed. Thank you to her for such patience.

Following the Village hall AGM on 17th May – Trustees in person meeting that is planned we hope to be able to look forward to a slow return to a new normal. Table tennis with 6 or fewer people should be able to start. There is the ongoing prospect that the hall will be Truespeed connected and so have Ultrafast broadband. When this does happen a new set of opportunities for meetings and shows becomes available. I am afraid that the AGM cannot be open to all as this would infringe 'meeting inside' numbers but if you have ideas please tell me or one of the other trustees so that all ideas can be looked at. The £10,000 grant received from Mendip District Council in April 2020 has ensured that the hall has been able to pay its ongoing costs and is in a good position for the coming year.

Peter Bright Chairman of Village Hall Trustees.