

Scopwick and Kirkby Green Village Hall Management Committee:

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting 2020-2021

The Village Hall Committee had a busy and successful year from April 2019 until March 2020 planning and delivering special events, hosting many regular user sessions, and managing the day to day running of the facility and its regular maintenance. Sadly, all this came to an abrupt halt when the government announced lockdown and the closure of all community buildings in March.

Despite being closed, we continued to monitor all requirements and guidance to ensure the building was safe and secure both internally and externally and that we would be ready to reopen as soon as allowed. Throughout the year our caretaker continued to work including completing weekly inspections of the facility in line with insurance requirements.

We conducted and completed a Covid Risk Assessment and shared those restrictions, rules and guidance for future use of the building with all our regular users. We developed an additional page of the hire agreement that had to be signed before bookings would be accepted. We purchased and installed additional sanitizing and cleaning equipment and all the necessary signage was put in place.

Other more routine safety measures continued. Monthly fire safety and emergency lighting checks were made and recorded in addition to the annual inspection. Smoke detectors and signs, including the fire assembly point are in place and curtains comply with fire safety standards. All electrical equipment was PAT tested. The fridge was turned off for the duration, so the temperature was not monitored.

Sadly, our regular activities had to be suspended including Brownies, Bowls, Funfit Friendship, Zumba, the Hub and Pilates. We were delighted when restrictions were lifted, and we could reopen. The art group managed to restart for one session before the government announced a second lockdown.

During the year we were unable to offer any entertainments or events like the Village Show nor could we host celebrations like the planned wedding receptions. We were all greatly saddened by this. We were able to organize a celebration of both VE and VJ days around the villages with bunting, scarecrows, picnics, and a village walk and quiz. These were enthusiastically supported.

The Friendship group of friends and neighbours were unable to meet for their afternoon activities which left many feeling isolated and lonely. We were delighted to secure two grants which allowed us to provide bags of Christmas Cheer and Easter Hampers to brighten the time for thirty-six people.

Scopwick and Kirkby Green Village Hall Management Committee:

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting 2020-2021

Throughout the year we continued to stay in touch via the Village Hall News Group, the parish website (www.scopwickparish.co.uk) the village noticeboards and the church magazine. In an effort to be inclusive we did deliver a news letter to every household catch those who don't have email or website access.

We very gratefully received a grant of £1000 from the Parish Council. We continued to receive bills for utilities etc, but Covid restrictions meant we were unable to raise money through fundraising, bookings or entertainment and other events. We applied for and were grateful to receive several government grants which have mitigated the potential shortfall and will allow a more comfortable reopening. We believe we will use this money wisely and prudently to provide and maintain a wonderful facility. The treasurer's report will cover our financial situation in more detail.

Since our last AGM we have welcomed Wendy Stacey on to the Committee. The usual activities, events, fund-raising and upkeep depend upon the time and effort of our volunteer committee members. Everyone continued to help with upkeep of the building and grounds, communications, letterbox drops, preparation and delivery of parcels, shopping, safety checks etc. I would like to thank them all for their contribution, commitment and tireless support throughout the past strange year. A particular mention must go to those who have undertaken the additional roles and responsibilities of secretary, treasurer and booking secretary. Thank you also to our caretaker for looking after the hall so well.

We believe the hall is the heart of the village and we have missed being open and serving our community. We look forward to opening the doors and welcoming everyone again.

Janet Flett

Chair S & KG Village Hall Committee

June 2021