**Ludham Village Hall and Playing Fields**

**Charity No. 304005**

**Chair’s Annual Report 2020/21**

**Covid-19 Overview**

1. It has been a difficult year for all during 2020/21 and the Hall has seen its income streams from regular users all but disappear because of Covid restrictions.
2. It was agreed that the Football Club, Snooker Club and Bowls Club should have their annual payment waived, as they too have had revenue reduced because of the impact of Covid.
3. The Hall has trimmed its costs as much as possible with Tracey, our cleaner, agreeing to take a break due to the reduced use of the Hall and we thank her for doing this.
4. Hand sanitiser stations have been installed within the Hall and Snooker Room, with disinfectant sprays being placed in the toilets, kitchen and main Hall entrance.
5. On the positive side, the LVH 200 Club has retained its numbers. The majority of annual payments are now being paid by members directly into the Club bank account to eliminate personal contact. Thanks to Paul and Maggie Smith for organising and maintaining an income stream.

**Hall Improvements**

1. The new kitchen has been installed and waiting to be used in earnest once we return to some form of normality. The layout and finish of the kitchen has received positive comments from those who have managed to view it.
2. A new defibrillator was purchased and installed on an outer wall facing the road. This is for general use in the village as required and covers any emergencies by users of the Hall and playing field.
3. Our newly appointed grounds maintenance contractor - The Garden Guardian - has kept the playing field in excellent condition.
4. The cherry trees in the car park and playing field have had their canopy lifted allowing vehicles to be parked without fear of damage from low branches.

**A Christmas Cracker!**

1. The Hall and LVH Players organised a free Santa grotto visit over two afternoons in December, which was well received with enthusiastic reports from attendees. A big thank you to Mark Sutton who helped design the grotto and projected “the best Santa ever”, with glowing visitor feedback reports.
2. Thanks also to Barry Whitehouse who helped organise and set up the Santa experience by installing lights and preparing the grotto, which helped make the event a success. Free sweet bags, kindly prepared by Paul and Maggie Smith, were given to the 42 children that attended.
3. The Village Hall contributed to making the Christmas Term finish on a high for youngsters and parents in the village.

**Roof Renewal**

1. The Hall roof has, over the years, deteriorated due to high winds removing “felt slate” coverings in increasing numbers. The roof now requires a permanent fix to make it watertight and this will be undertaken with solid, light composite roof tiles.
2. The project is due to be completed over 8/10 weeks during 2021 by Able Roofing, the least expensive and preferred contractor. We have finances in place to cover the cost with additional backing from the Bernard Sunley Foundation and The Geoffrey Watling Foundation, both giving grants towards the total cost.

**Update on Trustees**

1. Jim & Gail Usher have now left Ludham and will no longer be associated with the Hall. We thank them both for their work over the years helping to ensure the charity has continued to be used in the community and wish them good luck in their new surroundings.
2. The good news is that we are able to welcome Lindsay Grist to our Management Committee as a Parish Council representative.

**And finally** ……………..

1. Special thanks to Paul and Maggie Smith who have managed the Hall admirably during lockdown and made sure the Village Hall contracts for grounds maintenance, insurance, electricity and grant income are handled in the best interests of the Hall.

**Richard Pinning**

**Chair, Ludham Village Hall & Playing Fields**

**12 April 2021**