

## PAUNTLEY VILLAGE HALL REPORT

1 JUNE 2021

### Bookings and Events

There have been few bookings and events in the past year due to lockdown and other restrictions. Regular bookings like Pilates ceased, and few private bookings were allowed. Fundraising has therefore been virtually nil for the year. Our last event was a film evening in February 2020, and therefore expected fundraising monies of around £2,500 a year (based on the 2019-2020 amount) have been lost. We had a short spell of Coffee Mornings over the summer but the Rule of Six meant that we could not continue these without the need to police the events, which was not felt to be an option we were comfortable with.

There are a few signs of bookings coming back in, including the election day on 9 May and we have had several bookings for outside events over May and early June. Newent Rangers (Senior Guides) have returned with outside bookings at the present, and Terry Prince has indicated that Pilates will soon be restarting. Our Friday walks continue on non-coffee morning days, complying with the rules and, although these do not bring in any income, they are a valuable opportunity for people to meet in a safe way. It is possible that the Newent Friday Market will be bringing their new van to village halls in the near future, with a good range of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, cakes and other goods. We are talking to them about combining their visits with our coffee mornings.

Our Support Group numbers have been swelled by new additions to 12, which is good news as it allows us to be more ambitious in our plans without too much falling on just a few people. A work party is planned for the morning of Wednesday 18 June, to deal with some of the outside jobs that need doing. Thanks to Annie, Chris and Siobhan for dealing with the weeds in the paved areas to the front and rear of the hall.

The Village Hall Support Group met on 26 May to discuss what events could be planned for the summer. These include restarting the regular Coffee Morning, and the first of these will be held in the grounds of the hall on Friday 4 and Friday 17 June. A Summer Celebration is planned for Saturday 24 July and other plans for the summer include a Pub Evening, Skittles Evening and possibly a Quiz Evening. If the weather allows, these events will all enable the outside space to be used as well, and so avoid large numbers inside the hall. It is felt that Film Evenings will not be able to restart until autumn at the earliest - we need around 30 people to just break even at these events, and many people may not yet be comfortable with 40 or 50 people seated inside the hall for several hours. If you are not already on our email list to be notified of future events, then please contact us on [pauntleyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:pauntleyvillagehall@gmail.com) to be added – no email addresses are shared.

Our Covid-19 Risk Assessment is complete and displayed on our website and in the hall, and all hirers are made aware of this and of our special conditions of hire during Covid-19. All the necessary signage, sanitisers and cleaning materials are in place, enabling us to reopen fully once we are able to do so.

## **Village Hall Finances**

Despite the lack of income over the past year, we have been fortunate to have received the £10,000 grant awarded to small businesses over the lockdown periods. This has enabled us to continue with regular financial commitments such as insurance, electricity bills, PAT testing and fire appliance testing, and grounds maintenance. These expenses amount to some £2,500 for the financial year, regardless of whether we have any income. Any surplus monies will be used towards our renovation project detailed below.

We are also very grateful to Ecclesiastical Insurance for a donation of £250.00 which Sandra Fowke, one of their employees, kindly obtained for us. Pauntley Real Ale Festival also gave a generous donation of £750.00 following their final accounts at their winding up of the committee late last year. Our accounts have now been finalised and we are fortunate to end with a small credit balance as a result of these grants and donations, and a report will be sent to the Charity Commission later in the year for their records.

## **Village Hall Renovation Project**

We have been wanting for some time to make improvements to the toilets and kitchen at the hall. With the kind help of Josh Thomas, from Josh Thomas Design House, we have now agreed plans to build onto the front of the hall, towards the hedge, to provide a new entrance hall, toilets, accessible toilet and shower. We are also planning to have a new, larger kitchen to the side of this area. The existing kitchen will be demolished and the existing toilets and entrance area re-developed to provide more much-needed storage space. To make the most of our wonderful views from the rear of the hall, we will have opening doors from the main hall onto a decked area here to provide an outdoor space. There will also be work to do in the main hall, to bring it up to the same standard as the new build.

We are at present at the stage of submitting our plans for planning approval, and therefore a few months away from finalising them. We would normally be holding a meeting with residents and supporters but, as we are unable to do so at present, we will be posting copies of the plans, once they are finalised, on our website – [www.pauntley.org.uk](http://www.pauntley.org.uk) - and on the notice boards in the parish.

Lesley Harding

30.5.2021