

## Washington Village Memorial Hall

### Chairman's Report for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

The last year has seen a gradual return to normal, with most of our regular groups resuming their bookings and one-off bookings starting to increase.

Sadly Alison Milner-Gulland resigned as WI representative and we welcomed Helen Twine in her place.

Pat O'Shea continues as our very efficient secretary and Rob Gerig is kindly still covering the roles of treasurer and regular bookings.

Tracey Slaughter is continuing to manage the one-off bookings with support from Helen Twine and volunteer hosts Freya Carter, Liz Horwood, Natalie James and Steph and Graham Willett.

The Chanctonbury Room roof still leaks from time to time and the trustees appointed a new contractor who carried out an inspection in September. Problems with the gable windows were identified and it is proposed that work on them will take place during Spring 2022.

The external decoration of the lower part of the Dore Room was carried out by Bryon Winslade, Rob Gereig and Tracey Slaughter with help from Pat on refreshments, the interior decoration will be held back until the problems with the roof are resolved.

The half step at the front door of the Dore Room has been completed.

Future plans include carrying out a project for the possible installation of solar panels; the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging points; replacement of the remainder of the fluorescent tubes throughout the hall and the insulation of all hot water pipes; the addition of more PIR lighting points; changing the taps in the Chanctonbury Room toilets to taps with automatic shut-off.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions the hall's income was reduced again this year. However we have been able to access government grants totalling £10,000 aimed at reducing the impact on village halls. In addition we received a donation of £797 from the closure of the Village Day Fund as Village Day is now organised by the School PTA.

Hall hire charges were reviewed and it was reluctantly agreed that, after a two year freeze, some of the hire charges be increased slightly for 2022-223 with the provision to review again in October when the full effects of the on going utility price increases are known.

The 100 Club continues to provide additional funds for the hall. Numbers remain at 92 thanks to the efforts of trustees in recruiting new members, and also to the existing members who increased their memberships. Unfortunately we were once again unable to hold the annual Christmas Party but the trustees agreed to issue some additional prizes in the December draw by way of compensation.

Finally my thanks to everyone who helps to keep our lovely hall running – the trustees, our volunteers, our book keeper, Sue Goss, our two employees Suzanne Muddle and Bryon Winslade, Irene Thomson who keeps the garden looking beautiful and welcoming and, of course, the users of the hall who make it all worthwhile.