

Bourtons Village Hall – Chairman's Report 2021

We entered the year on lockdown after a difficult festive season and we awaited the Government's Road map out of the pandemic. Having entered the second phase of the easing of lockdown, the committee had been looking to reopen the hall within the current COVID restrictions. We were pleased to announce that the hall would be reopened for bookings from 17 May. The committee's efforts were recognised in the inspection of the Hall by Cherwell District Council which resulted in the Hall being used as the polling station for the May 6th Elections.

The government restrictions meant that we could only accommodate up to 9 individuals or 18 using the bubble principle. In 2020 the hall was awarded "We're Good to Go" certification. This is the COVID-19 industry standard and issued by 4 national tourist boards. This was renewed for 2021 as the committee continued to focus on providing a safe environment in the hall for our community.

As we are moving into the "new normal" as the impact of the pandemic eases, activity in the hall has slowly resumed. The Village Hall management committee would like to express their appreciation for the support from the Bourtons Gardening Club and the Music Society. The Ladies Coffee mornings restarted their efforts in supporting local charities. The Zumba classes have also resumed. The Bourton's Big Breakfast in the hall was a resounding success and was well supported by the community.

As we progressed into the year the committee discussed ways of improving the hall. The decision to maintain full time cleaning, replacing the curtains and blind with new fixtures and fittings which will be completed in early December. The committee were delighted when three of our local artists agreed to loan some of their paintings for display in the hall. A big thank you to Janice Deas, Jenny Eadon and Michele Tyler. To further enhance the hall's facilities a microwave was donated and after a great deal of effort with BT, Broadband Wi-Fi has been installed which is available to all who use the hall.

The committee look forward to 2022 with the backdrop of the Government restrictions hopefully behind us. However, hall users should be mindful of using masks and ventilation. The committee are examining the purchase of CO2 monitors to monitor air quality.

I would like to thank the committee for their hard work, good humour, commitment and support during the year, which hopefully will continue in 2022.

G Tyler
Chairman
Bourtons Village Hall Management Committee