

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

VHCommittee members: Erika Lilley (Chairperson, Bookings Secretary, Lighthorne Ladies Representative), Sandra Shaw (Secretary, PCC Representative), Marie Bate (Treasurer), John Took (Maintenance), Mary-Lorraine Hughes (Film Club Representative), Martin Preedy (100 Club Representative), Tracey Pickin, Alan Pickin, Mike Langhorn, James Drake-Lee, Sally Dick (Lighthorne Drama Group Representative), Josette Tait (Lunch Club Representative).

September 2020

First of all, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work and support throughout the last year. I want you to know that I really appreciate all the energy and time that you have given to the village hall all these past months. 2019 and this year have been quite challenging so you really deserve a big thank you from all the community...the year ahead will be a little bit "different" but I am sure nothing will be too much if we continue working as the great team we are.

* So, what has happened since the last AGM?

As you may remember Ed was the chairperson of the committee since May 2019, and led the committee until September 2019. In November I took over as chairperson and then for personal reasons resigned in February. Then, in mid-March Coronavirus arrived and the world was put on hold...and then I took over again in June...so let's say it has been a "bumpy-year" ...

However, we can also say that it has been a good year for us and that we are in a healthy financial position anyway:

David Wright Room: The Annexe was ready to use just before the Drama Festival on June 2019 and we had the official "Opening" at the end of July. It was a long and very important project for the community...it took many months (years) to become a reality, but the final "product" made Lighthorne proud...at the opening event we thanked all the people who were involved and helped (some of them were not part of the committee, some of them have already moved away) and we also remembered our beloved David Wright, whose legacy made this annexe possible (Marie will talk about the allocated funds in her report). In August we received a Grant from Carling Beer and we used the funds to buy the Annexe's furniture and finish some bits still missing (like the handrail for the ramp and the turf for the bank). We also received a donation from the Parish Council to help us with this project, so a big thank you to them too. At the moment, the only matter outstanding of this project is the resurfacing of carpark and we are already in conversations with the Building Company to resolve this issue asap.

Refurbishment of the Main Hall: These works were done at the same time as the building works for the Annexe. We have now a main hall that looks fresh and modern. We need to

thank everybody who volunteer to do some decorating and LDG for helping us to redecorate the stage area.

Bookings: We have a considerable increase in our income from lettings. This was achieved basically thank to two factors: a) In September 2019, after we made a research about the hiring rates of different village halls in the county, we decided that it was the right time to increase our hiring rates as well as simplify the rules used to calculate them. b) The use of the hall increased in the second half of 2019 and beginning of 2020, as we got new groups of hirers that were using "blocs of hours". It is important to thank to all our hirers, we really appreciate that you keep using our hall.

Fundraising events: Our main fundraising event was the Games and Gavel Night held on January 2020. It was a complete success raising a considerable amount of money. Thank you, James for bringing the idea to the table and thank you again to you and Mary Lorraine for leading it. It is important to also thank all the ones who help with the organization, the ones who donated the promises and the generous bidders. We also have two successful events organized by members of the community: a big thank you to Laura Steele for being in charge of our Christmas Fayre one more time and another big thank you to Penny & Peter Amis and Martin & Leslie Thornton for organizing and being the forefront of the Remi Harris Night held in March 2020.

Maintenance: The to-do list under this subject never ends. We are trying to keep ourselves on top of all the maintenance works, so the building looks clean, fresh and ready to use with a view to always provide an excellent "product" for the regular and potential hirers. Besides the manual, electrical and carpentry jobs around the building, John has carried out an extensive check of the building and updated our Risk Assessment and Fire Assessment. As the building has changed, we also have now a new Fire Exits Floor Plan and Evacuation Procedure in case of Fire. Thank you John for all your hard work.

Finances: Being 2019, we decided to finally hit the online banking and Marie analysed the Bank-options and changed our bank accounts to the most cost effective one. To keep our spending under control, she also has made an intensive review of our regular costs and has achieved after some research to find better deals for us. Thank you Marie for always being on top of everything.

Film Club and 100 Club: As always, these two activities are an important part of our village hall income. We need to thank Mary Lorraine for leading Film Club this last year, she has made some nice changes to the catering offer and organization...and thank you to Martin for being in charge one more time of a successful 100 Club, your help and commitment is very valuable to us. As well, we need to thank all the volunteers who have helped Mary Lorraine and Martin.

Covid-19 Measures: At the moment, the only part of the building open to the public is the Annexe, as the post office operates there 3 times a week. We have read the government and Acre guidelines and put in place all the measures we need to make the space Covid-19 free.

Please, this is a reminder to all the community that we are still living in the middle of a Pandemic, so we ask you to keep following the rules: keep your distance, use a mask when visiting the hall, sanitize your hands and follow the one way system. It is the responsibility of us all to keep our village as safe as possible.

* What does the future bring to us?

I think it is safe to say that the future is a little bit unknown regarding the use of the hall. By the time I am writing this report the government rules have changed one more time as the cases of COVID-19 have increased dramatically...however, we did agreed in our last committee meeting that we will review and analyse the virus-situation in October 2020 and will make a decision about how risky or not would be to open the hall for hirers and village groups meetings. So, if we decide to re-open the hall, we will let the community know as well as our regular hirers/users how we can all keep the building Covid free as well as all the community safe. We have already placed some hand-sanitizing stations in the lobby and main-hall, but we will put other measures in place.

LVH Friends: Most of you might have already received a mail inviting you to be part of our new "group" called LIGHTHORNE VILLAGE HALL FRIENDS. The idea of this group is to have a DB with the names and contact details (mails/phone numbers) of "our friends" (you) and to know in which skills you are good or what activities you enjoy...and if you would be willing to give a helping hand when/if the VH-committee needs an extra pair of hands for different activities. We are trying to spread the work/jobs/labour among all the villagers that would like to join this group. I have already received some nice mails accepting "the challenge" so thank to you all who have now become a LVH-Friend. We will be in contact with you (soon).

The Extension: In our last meetings we have been talking about the "EXTENSION" and we have agreed the following: - John will lead this project as a committee member and Martin Ryan will be our expert-consultant about this matter. Martin and John have already walked round the building and discussed the situation. There are two problems: 1. Movement in the perimeter wall. 2. Movement in the floor slab. The next steps are: - Martin suspects the movement in the perimeter wall is historic. To confirm this his recommendation is to repoint the external cracks and leave it for twelve months and see what happens. He would take the opportunity to inset some "helli bars" in the worst cracks at the front corner. - As regards the floor slab there may be an ongoing problem here but will deal with this one problem at a time. We need to give a super big thank you to Martin for helping us in all this project. We really appreciate it.

And, last but not least, if you are thinking that it would be a good idea to create a new "Club" or "Group" please let us know...at the moment the hall is still closed but it would be nice to have it very busy again in the new year. Also, if you want to join the VH-committee you are VERY welcome to do so – just get in touch...you know where we are.

Kind regards,

Erika Lilley