

## **CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

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

Our dear John Took resigned months ago however, he has kindly stayed helping us with the Maintenance until now.

### **August 2021**

First of all, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their work and support throughout the last year. The financial year April 2020-March 2021 has been quite unique (to say the least) due the explosion of Covid-19 around the world...it has been a challenging year for all of us in different ways but it has also shown that Lighthorne is a wonderful community...and I am very happy to be part of it.

\* So, what has happened since the last AGM?

Well, not much...as the village hall was closed for the 12 months of the financial year with the only exception of the Post Office (sometimes only open one day a week).

I hope you all understand that the decision to close the VH was made with the objective to keep our village as virus-free as possible...obviously, at the beginning we didn't know if any government or local authority help will come our way, but we thought that closing the hall was the right call, as we were in a healthy financial position at that time (April 2020).

The committee also agreed at that time that all expenses should be put on hold as we didn't know when the VH would be able to be open again.

However, after some weeks into the Pandemic the Government announced that some financial help would be allocated for venues and charities impacted by the virus/lockdowns...and thankfully, we qualified for those Grants. Marie will explain the detail of them in her report.

Knowing that the VH would continue to be closed for some months, we decided to finish anyway with some outstanding maintenance bits: We resurfaced the carpark, we did the electrical testing and maintenance, we paint the stock room floor, we erected a bollard and new signs in the carpark, we repositioned a radiator in the main hall, among other many things...and when I say "we" I actually mean that John has been busy sorting out all these things for us. He has also updated The VH Asbestos Register, Fire Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Risk Assessment.

Also, the previous year, as a committee, we agreed how we would deal with the Extension problems (right end of the building). As you may remember, Martin Ryan helped us understand that we had two problems and that we must deal with them once at a time. The problems were: 1.- The perimeter walls and 2.- The Floor. The idea was to fix the perimeter wall and keep an eye on it for 12 months and then reassess the situation. So, we decided to quote the building works for problem No. 1 and schedule the work as soon as possible. (The building work has been done – May 2021 – and we are keeping an eye on the wall).

And last but not least we had a very big Garden Party helping us clearing and tidying up all the green areas around the village hall...thank you so much to all LVH Friends who came and work really hard during those 4 days just before the second lockdown.

\* What does the future bring to us?

I hope for a more “active” year but we will see...fingers crossed the virus stays under control so we can continue using the hall as much as previous years.

And, finally, I think it would be really healthy as and for the community if we share the responsibility of managing the VH...so this is a kindly call to all of you, dear people of Lighthorne, to come forward and volunteer to be part of the VH Committee...Most of the vacancies will be open next year...so if you are thinking that you can give back to the community please contact us...you could be the next chairperson, or treasurer, or secretary, or maintenance person, events person, etc etc...

Kind regards,

Erika Lilley