

RICKINGHALL VILLAGE HALL REPORT 2020

As I write this in mid-March, we are all increasingly affected by Covid-19, and most hirers of the Village Hall have suspended their activities for the time being. The effects of this on the many people who normally use the Hall will no doubt mirror those elsewhere, but there are already encouraging signs of our local community pulling together to offer support where it is needed.

When the crisis ends, as it surely will, the Hall will be ready to resume its place within the local community. The Hall currently remains available for use, and while we are of course stopping all non-essential spending, we will aim to maintain the facilities in good condition ready for a return to normality when this becomes possible.

Fortunately, the Hall is in a sound financial position and, with careful control of outgoings, will be able to survive without economic stress for a considerable time. We have no staff costs, since everything is of course organised and run wholly by volunteers, and this fact is an additional strength in these difficult times.

For the record, we did have over 500 bookings of the Hall again last year, and our outside sports and play areas also continued to be well-used. We have been looking at replacing the rather tired skate park, in conjunction with the Parish Council, and lots of work has been done on this subject to grant funding. We hope to continue progress on this project during the coming months.

The concrete terrace on the field side of the Hall was replaced with porous brick pavers during 2019, with help from our local District Council. We replaced some tired outside doors and wood, and also installed new water heaters to replace a defective boiler. Since year-end we have also completely renewed the disabled toilet facility, to bring this up to the standard of the main toilets.

There are clearly going to be challenges over the coming months in a much wider context than just the Hall but, come the time, we will be ready to re-open, and to resume our important place in the local community.

Bob Clark
Chairman