

WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL
REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

As with all of life, this has been a strange year for the Village Hall, and I am conscious this report actually covers two years.

We continue to strive to provide a welcoming and comfortable community facility for all within the parish, and the Committee work hard to ensure this continues – ensuring appropriate repairs are carried out, and making improvements where possible. A few years ago we had replacement heaters installed, which proved not to be as effective as we had been led to believe. So we then installed new ceiling mounted heaters, and the two systems together now work very well. Currently, we are having a radon fan installed beneath the hall as we had the first signs of wet rot under the main hall; this took a while for a correct diagnosis, but we are confident the work now being done will prevent any further problems.

Our bookings have been good – though we have lost the youth club, which is not only a loss to the village hall, but the village itself. And then came the lockdown, when all life changed and it seemed that everything stopped.

When the first lockdown ended we considered very, very carefully whether we could reopen the hall and provide a covid-free environment for those who wished to restart their activities. All of the Committee were involved in preparing the hall for reopening, and we did so on 10th August. Obviously, from a financial point of view this was important to us – but also it was a sign to the community that although we currently have to live under certain restrictions, we can look towards some kind of normality. The way the hall is currently used has had to change, and all users have to abide by new conditions. We worked closely with our hirers and helped them where we could to ensure their particular group could meet if they wished, and we would like to thank all users for abiding by these extra ‘rules’. Understandably, some of our regular hirers have chosen not yet to return, but we hope they will do so in future; , other groups could not wait to restart their activities. We were conscious that the hall might have to close again, and this has happened, but each time we have reopened.

Last year we were approached by the Post Office to see if the hall was a suitable venue for them to use – and the entrance to the hall seemed to be the best place. We are happy to provide the space free of charge to ensure this important facility can continue to be available to the community.

We have been very fortunate in receiving grants from Shropshire Council and HM Government – these were available to ensure facilities like ourselves are able to reopen after lockdowns and provide spaces for community groups in the future.

We look forward to activities returning to normal in the future, and hope for an increasingly busier 2021!

Christine Curtis,
Secretary
West Felton Village Hall Committee

9th April, 2021