

# HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity No: 265121

## TRUSTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019/20

The object of the Trust is “*To provide a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Pitcombe, Cole & Hadspen in the County of Somerset without distinction or political, religious or other opinions, including use for lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants*”. The Trustees are pleased to report that our objectives continue to be met and that a diversified range of uses is successfully catered for without detriment to regular local user groups.

Obviously this last year the use of the hall has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and particularly the nationwide lockdown. Up until well into the lead-up to lockdown, the Hall continued to accommodate a wide range of users, both regular and occasional, and was heading for a bumper year. Once lockdown was imposed, the Hall had to be closed but, following government guidance, after heroic efforts to produce new procedures and install new measures to keep people safe, we were able to reopen to users on 1<sup>st</sup> September. It was pleasing to see that a large number of our regulars immediately returned and this has confirmed how important the Hall is to the well-being of the local community.

Only two events organised by the HVH Committee took place this year - the Christmas party and a Quiz Night, both of which were well attended. Because of the lockdown we were very sad not to be able to commemorate VE Day as we had been planning to do and due to social distancing requirements we are not planning any further community events at this time. We will continue to be hopeful, however, that 2021 will bring better news with regard to the pandemic and that we will be able to get back to normal operation.

Despite all of the disruption, maintenance of the hall and of the car park have continued to be undertaken as well as routine maintenance of the boiler, fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. The 5-year annual electrical check was carried out in October and we have continued to maintain our commitments to Health & Safety.

In consideration of the Covid-19 pandemic we applied for and received a national grant of £10,000 which was available to community buildings, including village halls, to assist with the expenses of coping with the pandemic and to replace lost income. So far this has helped us meet the expenses of hand sanitiser, cleaning materials, PPE, signage, etc. (c. £500) and to replace lost income on lettings and fundraising (c. £3,000). It will also go towards other expenses as we move forward and compensate for reduced income through this critical time.

Our major expenditure of the year was in respect of the final conveyance costs of the car park extension lease and the provision of safety and security lighting totalling £1,737. We now have a car park which will much better accommodate the parking needs of both large and small events and will enable us to plan for the future.

The year end result which reflects all the above was to generate receipts of £14,717 and payments of £7,094. The balance of funds at the end of the financial year stood at c. £26,185.

The Trustees will continue to respond to Covid-19 and the related guidance from the Government. Although this may restrict what we can do, the continuing aim will be to provide facilities for the community whenever and however we can.

17<sup>th</sup> November 2020