

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall

AGM/Ordinary Committee Meetings – 7 June 2022

Report of the Bookings Secretary

This is my final report to the Village hall's AGM and Committee. This meeting marks my retirement as Bookings Secretary and as a member of the committee. I have been involved with the committee and hall for at least thirty years and have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement in various capacities.

I have indicated my willingness to maintain a connection with the committee during the transition period as the new Hallmaster online booking service is launched and tested.

Beyond that, I will continue to be involved in organising the Boccia Club and will help out as a volunteer at a range of events in the future.

2021

The Village Hall was closed for much of 2021 due to a second outbreak of Covid and the subsequent lockdown restrictions. Much work had to be done to facilitate reopening when the restrictions were lifted. This impacted the users and hirers, as well as the committee, but generally speaking the safety precautions taken were accepted and well followed.

To encourage users to return to the hall and also to encourage regular and new 'community activities', the committee agreed to offer free rental until the end of December 2021. This scheme was very much welcomed and it did encourage the return of existing and a few new activities.

Grants received from the government's support schemes were very much welcomed and the income ensured that the committee could offer support to its regular users and continue to maintain a balanced financial position.

At the end of this report there is a full list of activities at the Village Hall. There is a good range of activities – art, boccia, pilates, boot camp and indoor bowls – each week, but the regular yoga class closed due to a lack of numbers. It's possible that the class may restart at some point, or another yoga class teacher may be attracted to the hall. There are now four scouting groups meeting at the hall under the Topcliffe 1st Scouts banner – scouts, cubs, beavers and the latest addition for 5 to 6 year olds, squirrels.

One of the new and very popular activities has been the fortnightly Soup and Sweet lunches organised by Karen Morley and Linda Carver, assisted by Richard Byas and Linda Robinson, and sometimes other volunteers. These lunches are provided in exchange for a donation and all the cash raised, after paying for the hall hire, goes to a different charity each time. The Village Hall has been the beneficiary on several occasions.

There has been a regular call for children's party bookings from both Topcliffe and Asenby residents and from hirers living outside our two villages. In addition the hall has been used for the Annual Produce Show, Attic Auction, Christmas Fayre, Sunday Brunches and several elections.

Hall usage has steadily built up since the Covid closures, although it is still not at pre-pandemic levels. Hopefully the committee will take action to increase activity in the coming months.

Improvements

Recently the cooker and dishwasher had to be replaced to ensure the smooth operation of the kitchen, particularly at larger events like the Soup and Sweet Lunches and parties. Quotations have been received for the replacement of all windows in the hall and this work will be undertaken at the end of June. Investigations into the cost of replacing the existing flagstones with a new patio area have been undertaken and this work has been scheduled for the Autumn of 2022.

Online hall bookings

As mentioned earlier, the committee agreed to investigate buying into an online booking service so that the job of receiving and managing hall reservations can be simplified and handled electronically. A trial of the Hallmaster booking system is now underway and is looking very promising. A big thank you to committee member Nicky Woods for taking the lead on this matter.

Current regular activities at the Village Hall

- Art classes – 10am to 12 noon each Monday.
- Boccia Club – 1.30 to 3.30pm every Tuesday. More participants welcome
- Library - 1.30 to 3.30pm every Tuesday (access at other times with agreement of activity leaders.
- Squirrels - 5 to 6pm every Tuesday.
- Beavers - 6.15 to 7.15pm every Tuesday.
- Soup & Sweet lunch - 12 noon to 1pm on alternate Wednesdays.
- Boot Camp – 6 to 7pm every Wednesday.
- Cubs - 7 to 8pm every Wednesday.
- Pammy's Pilates – 6 to 7pm, every Thursday evening.
- Indoor Carpet Bowls – 7.30 to 9.30pm every Thursday.
- Boot Camp – 7 to 8pm every Friday.
- Scouts (from October onwards) - 7 to 9pm every Friday.
- Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall Committee – bi-monthly.

Notes

- Topcliffe Parish Council meeting – meetings have moved to The Angel.
- Asenby Parish Council meeting – on hold as there are no councillors in the village.
- Events planned pre-pandemic that had to be postponed due to the will be rescheduled in due course. This includes the Big Race Night and Challenge Quiz.

JL - 30/05/2022