

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall

Booking Secretary's Report for the 2019-2020 AGM – 1 October 2020

The year has been extremely successful with a wide range of regular hirers and users, plus plenty of excellent one-off bookings. There was a good variety of activities provided for people of all ages and with a variety of interests. The hall lettings for private functions and entertainment proved quite profitable throughout the period April 2019 to February 2020, but with the onset of coronavirus and subsequent declaration of a pandemic, a range of activities late February and throughout March had to be cancelled.

In March 2020 the committee followed government guidelines and closed the Village Hall for all activities. This was the start of a lockdown that the committee has fully endorsed and even when the government relaxed restrictions on the opening of community facilities, it was decided that the situation was too uncertain and potentially dangerous to recommence activities. The hall is currently scheduled to remain closed at least 1 January 2021.

On two occasions the regular hall hirers were consulted about reopening the hall. In the latest survey the majority of hall hirers agreed that even if the hall was re-opened they were unlikely to restart their activities until the turn of the year, and then only if it is safe to use the facilities. Hirers that use the Village Hall for their business would like it reopened as soon as possible, but they are in the minority.

The only class that we have definitely lost is the art class, which has relocated to Helmsley. This was more to do with a desire on the part of the organisers to relocate to a facility nearer to their home and which could facilitate larger classes.

The rural arts class, which was a great success in the hall throughout 2019-20, is going ahead this year, but in a different format: participants receive packs to be completed at home. These packs are provided free each month.

PAT testing of all electrical equipment in the hall has been carried out during the lockdown.

The hall is checked every week following the government guidelines.

The hall floor will be renovated over the autumn months as the closure provides the ideal time for this to be carried out. Peter and Andrew are currently requesting quotations for this work.

The annual service of the heaters in the hall will need to be completed later in this year, regardless of the continued closure.

Hopefully, we can reopen in January or soon afterwards and the problem is that if we don't, we may lose some of the classes that use it for their business.

Judith Lowe
Trustee and Bookings Secretary