

Honington and Sapiston Village Hall Secretary's Report

2021/22

Another unusual year for Hall use, with a lot of uncertainty about which events could take place and when. Despite this we did hold 376 events with another 40 plus cancelled due to National restrictions. Events included bi-monthly Parish Council meetings for Honington and Sapiston and Fakenham Magna, children's and adult parties, weddings, a Christmas fair for the Hospice, a Village Christmas meal and a polling station. Unfortunately, we had some cancelled events, including weddings which could not take place. We are hopeful that bookings will return and have 3 weddings still in the diary with a further 3 booked for 2023. We continued with the take away meals service, thanks to Ian Patterson Parker's excellent cooking and organisational skills. 948 meals were served over 40 days. Menus were published in a regular communication sheet, "The Hub", up to Christmas. We are pleased that this has now been incorporated into the village newsletter. It has been a huge pleasure to be able to welcome people back to our Community suppers and lunches. A challenge is to re-build numbers for these.

Our core business is the use of the Hall by many interest groups. Weekly we host the Honington Foot Clinic, Soft Play, Sequence Dancing, Knit and Natter, Indoor Bowls, Art Group and our own drama group, The Greenroom Players. Monthly meetings include the W.I., Church coffee and soup mornings, the Camera group and Craft Club. In order to allow time to build attendance once these were re-introduced, we have offered free start-up sessions. We hope that the Pilates group will be able to restart this summer. Our main fundings comes from grants, (including our Annual amount from the Parish council and those from Suffolk Community Foundation and via the Borough Council), and monies generated from hall hire. Hall hire raised about £9,500 this year, despite losing nearly £3,000 in cancelled bookings. Without these cancellations it would have been a bumper year.

We have produced regular risk assessments and updated our policies and procedures in line with Government regulations and guidance. These have been essential in ensuring safe use of the Hall and have supported success in applying for grants. Equipment has been reviewed, supplemented and purchased, using the opportunity provided by grant funding. We have ensured that the hall is well maintained and kept clean. Thanks to Trevor and Ian for coordinating this, Dave for keeping the accounts and all the Committee who help with events, maintenance and decision making.

Linda Howe, Secretary

May 2022