

Alderholt Village Hall AGM – 21 October 2020

Bookings Officer Report

Hire of the hall had been ticking along nicely, with regular users meeting up weekly or monthly, alongside a range of one off bookings as well. However, Covid-19 hit, and we were put into lockdown in March. This stopped all activity at the hall, and it is only in the last few weeks that some of our regulars have started to meet again.

But it is important to remember that we have a lovely, well equipped hall, available at reasonable rates in the heart of our village, which is now a Covid safe venue, and ready to support and advise users about how they can meet at the hall.

Pre-lockdown, we had a good core of regular users, offering a range of activities, including various social clubs, fitness, art, bingo, the village market and the annual panto. We really appreciate the financial stability that these regular groups give us, and the range of things they offer for local people, which has been much missed in the last few months.

Now that restrictions have eased a little, pilates, pop pilates and paracise, art club, ladies' badminton and the drama group have started to meet again (although sadly there will be no panto this season). The monthly market has also restarted. Other groups have decided that they will wait a while longer before restarting, but we continue to stay in contact. Sadly, we have said good bye to the keep fit group, as numbers attending were too low to make it sustainable at the moment.

We had a wide range of one off bookings up to lockdown – over 25 in total, ranging from family parties and celebrations, sales, music, bazaars, quiz and competition nights, workshops and theatre. We hope that these bookings will begin to pick up as restrictions are lifted further.

We have continued to review our hire rates, and continue to find we compare well with other local halls. We have not increased our rates for a number of years, so will keep an eye on our running costs against our income, but fully intend to ensure that local people have an attractive and economic place in which to meet.

We publicise events and changes in restrictions at the hall via the website, our facebook and Alderholt facebook pages and through the Parish Magazine, along with information about how to hire the hall.

I'd like to thank the Core Committee who work tirelessly to maintain and develop our hall, as well as implementing the necessary changes to make us a Covid safe venue.

Mandy