

2021 Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 2021 AGM - held in quite different circumstances to last year's Zoom meeting. We may be a little restricted in numbers, but we can at least enjoy seeing one another face-to-face.

The hopes and aspirations from last year are now beginning to bear fruit. Welcome to all our Hirers and users - both new and old. Thank you all for taking the plunge and looking after your members and guests so well - making them feel comfortable as gatherings develop in size and scale. We salute you all.

Trustees are immensely pleased to welcome four new bookings at the Hall, namely: **The Village HUB & Repair Café** on a Saturday morning is an extremely welcome venture, which with the support of the Parish Council, can continue their unique Recycling services to the Village. Another very welcome newcomer to the Hall is **The Marnhull Choir**, which now meets here on a Wednesday evening, adding to the Village's cultural offering. We also warmly welcome the arrival of the **Meditation and Wellbeing Circle** on Thursday mornings. In addition to these three new Hirers, we also warmly welcome the return of the **Baby & Toddler Group** on a Thursday, but under new management and providing a much-needed service for the community. A very warm Welcome to you All.

Of course, not all Users have been able to continue and sadly, this was the decision of the POPPin Café - for six brilliant years Linda and her superb team provided a real community meeting place every month. The Hall would always look a picture during these Café sessions, making all who attended feel both welcome and wanted. POPPin is sorely missed.

The Build Project came in on budget - thanks to an excellent Contractor in Phil Calcott and the work undertaken by John Dowsett and his team. Our Treasurer must have had kittens as money flowed in one direction only for quite a period - but he never publicly winced or groaned; he and John kept us all informed on where we stood to aid and support informed decision-making.

The Fundraising for this project, threw up a fascinating piece of data when it was calculated that some two-thirds of the build costs were raised within Marnhull. So, a huge THANK YOU to all of you who directly, or indirectly, contributed to the cause - quite remarkable. This outcome in no way diminishes the efforts of Stephen Boyce in leading us through a number of complex applications to an equal number of Charitable Foundations, without whom none of this would have been possible - at least in my lifetime. Thank you, Stephen.

The past year has been busier than ever for trustees, as efforts have been needed to make people feel safe in our community Hall - as volunteers we have always aimed to do our absolute best, offering what skills we may have along with our time and general goodwill.

One added benefit of the Build Project has been the completion of the Terrace - open the doors on a warm day and suddenly the Hall is bigger than ever. Meetings - both formal and informal - can take place in the summer months seated at the Round Table of Marnhull - it would not have suited King Arthur as it only seats eight, but it is another new facility for Villagers to enjoy.

In common with all purchasers in recent times, items such as new Entrance Doors and new internal Lobby Doors are hard to source, but rest assured both are on order with delivery awaited. Equally illumination for the car park and tarmac marking for the Disabled parking spaces are both currently outstanding. These remain on the 'to do list' and will be addressed over the next few weeks and months. All the items above are pre-funded.

Before I close, I want to say how important a role Tina has continued to play in making sure the Hall has been maintained in good order for reopening and then subsequently ensuring everything has been maintained to a high standard during these unsettled times. As always, Tina remains dedicated to her role as Caretaker. So, Thank You Tina.

I am standing down as trustee and Chair at the close of this meeting. These past 3 years have proved to be an interesting time to be a trustee of the Hall and I have enjoyed working with a truly excellent group of fellow trustees - so, thank you all for also stepping up to the plate. I also want to say a heartfelt thank you to all User Organisations/Hirers and their members for their patience over the recent past.

Thanks are also due to Esther, as our Bookings Secretary, who has found herself busier than ever, and Lesley for so competently and positively representing the Parish Council at our Management Committee meetings, and to Chris, Mella and Ann for their excellent work on their Community Fundraising Group including their work in maintaining and continuing the Village Hall Supporters Club which helps, as ever, to offset some of the Hall running costs.

And finally, thanks to my fellow Trustees for all their hard work, support and friendship over the past year, namely: Rob (Hon. Treasurer/Cricket Club), Jean (Hon. Secretary/Flower Show), Peter (Facilities/Table Tennis), Steve (H&S/Elected), Vicki (Marnhull Entertains/Moviola), Chris (Covid Assessment/Church of Our Lady), Dave (Covid Assessment/Garden Club), Alan (Policies/Music Society) Sue (now Jeremy for Marnhull Tennis Club) and John (Ret'd mid-term after 6 years in the saddle and, like Steve and I, he served as an Elected Member).

Graham Renwick, Chair of Trustees - 12 November 2021