

CREETING ST MARY DIAMOND JUBILEE VILLAGE HALL
REPORT MAY 2021 - Chris Bingley (Chair)

As we all know this has been a year like no other, and certainly one we hope will never be repeated.

Nevertheless I can report that our Committee have been very active and much has been achieved to improve and secure the future for our Hall over the past year.

Over the winter in particular, the new heating has been completed, and is proving to be a success - it can even be programmed by computer from home. It is a silent system, no more noisy fans, working from an Air Source pump.

We were fortunate to have an approach from our Parish Council asking if we had a potential project to which they could allocate CIL money available from recent developments in the village. The answer was a big "Yes".

We were thus able to plan the redevelopment of the Patio area. The ground cover is now a sustainable resin which incorporates recycled plastic. We have four smart new picnic tables, a new fence with an additional safety exit and soon there will be new lighting too. This will be low level for evening use, and high level to flood the car park area. We also have, so far, purchased one collapsable gazebo. We believe this will all add to the possibilities we can offer future hirers, and we are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for their help with this sizeable project. Soon, you will also see two new signs by the road, marking access to the Hall. (The second of these is at present subject to planning consent)

We are fortunate to now have the services of a new cleaner for the Hall, who lives very locally. Also, on the retirement of Richard Hyde after four years service as our Bookings Clerk, we are able to welcome Jennie King, who has just been able to take up her duties after Lockdown.

We have received several Government Grants, to which we were entitled, over the past year. These have been accepted and will be used for the ongoing expenses of the Hall when no revenue has been received. Any excess will be held to use for future work which we are aware may have to be commenced soon, in particular the toilets areas are giving concern.

Some of our regular Hall hirers have returned, but we have no idea yet when we may return to previously enjoyed levels of use. Time will tell in this rather changed world. We look forward to welcoming back the new Social Club, and hope the heart can soon be returned to the village.

It would be good to have some special event next year which marks 100 years since the opening of our Hall. All ideas for this are welcome.

Thank you

Chris Bingley.