

CHAIRS' REPORT. AGM 23RD MAY 2022

We are delighted to be fully open once again and able to meet our brief of providing a venue for the benefit of Hadstock residents.

Although closed since Spring 2020, we have been very busy. There always seemed to be the possibility that opening could be an option, subject to ever changing rules and regulations. Risk assessments had to be updated every few weeks as the advice on indoor meeting / numbers / use of face masks / hand washing / Sanitising furniture / one way systems / isolation area for anyone falling ill / was constantly updated.

Restrictions were finally lifted in February 2022 but many people still felt that the incidences of infection warranted caution.

Obviously, no lettings and no Fete, meant no income although costs continued – particularly heating, insurance and repairs. Various grants were available and details of the help we received are given in the grants report.

We were able to carry out external work to increase the useable outdoor space: erecting a pergola and increasing the size of the patio, a new shed for storage, outdoor furniture, improved external lighting and the installation of hand dryers.

We had planned to improve the hall frontage and held £7000 in reserve for this. However, we did not get the grant for matched funding. Although building costs have, and continue to, increase we hope that this project may be achievable in the future.

Repairs to the roof and guttering were necessary. There have been continuing problems with the boiler and our internet access for programming the heating but the engineer visited again last Thursday and everything seems to be in order.

Regular hirers are returning although some have problems returning to pre-covid numbers. The quiz made a welcome return last month and we are feeling optimistic.

We have 2 new members to the committee but would still welcome more members. Please contact us if you feel able to help.

Lynn and Kirsty May 2022

