

ASH VICTORIA HALL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Victoria Hall Management Committee

At the AGM Dave Brown was re-elected as Chairman and Booking Secretary, Ian Chant was re-elected as Treasurer and Susan Bowles elected as Secretary. There are six other members on the Committee.

It was agreed that after 3 years of no increase in charges, there would be an increase in charges for the forthcoming year.

The Hall has established a very strong place in the community and is very well used by both Ash and neighbouring communities.

Income from bookings was down due to the impact of the Covid pandemic but following the relaxation of Covid rules is making a good recovery. The Hall still undertakes all necessary Covid protective measures, and the Hall continues to be used within the guidelines.

Despite income being down, the receipt of a Covid grant has allowed the work on renewing the boundary wall to go ahead without damaging the bank balance. Normal maintenance also continued throughout the year.

With the receipt of additional Government grant and despite ongoing maintenance the bank balance was reasonably healthy at £42,021.07. This is particularly healthy given the age and use of the building and the numerous repairs and upgrades that are needed annually. Also, with increased energy costs it is difficult to gauge how next year will pan out.

Repairs at Victoria Hall were undertaken as necessary and the clock is now working, but the clock mechanism does show signs of age, which is likely to be quite expensive to replace. The next main planned building work is the replacement of the stage curtain and quotes will be obtained for presentation at a future committee meeting.

Dave Brown, the Chairman, continues to raise monies for various local and national charities by running monthly quizzes and other various events such as book sales, summer and winter shows etc. Even during lock down this continued with on-line quizzes. These are always good fun and there is friendly rivalry on the quiz nights. There can never be enough people attending these events and several thousands of pounds are raised each year for good causes. All money raised goes to charity.

Victoria Hall is a great resource in Ash, and I personally thank all the committee members for giving up their time to run and maintain this historical building in Ash.

Councillor Nigel Manning
Ash Parish Council Representative
March 2022