

Still closed for public use we started 2021 aiming to complete the refurbishment of the hall and open in the summer. With help from Wainwrights we got started by planning and purchasing the materials for the new blackout curtains and obtained some armed comfi chairs for our less mobile senior residents.

Manor Painters completed the major works linked to the interior refurbishment and the committee started on the smaller detail. Having found the fireplace under the war memorial and remnants of the second one nearby time, effort was put into creating two features in the hall.

April, May and June, with the hall still closed the committee kept on top of the garden, carried on supporting the community larder and kept the much-appreciated book and puzzle swap summer house neat and tidy. Continuing to tidy up from the renovation ready for reopening and with most of the dirty work completed we were able to lay new antislip floor covering in the ante room/gents toilet/kitchen and ladies toilet and have our wonderful wooden floor cleaned and polished thanks to grant funds received from the Parish Council.

We are very pleased with the outcome, and it completed the major works in the hall just in time for us to reopen in August, which we did with a well-attended cream teas afternoon.

With the hall re opened bookings started to come in slowly throughout September and October. With reopening came additional costs the biggest of which was keeping the hall clean to prevent the spread of COVID. Help was on hand with this, and a grant was received from Somerset CC which we obtained through PC to fund this for us for 6 months.

A small number of evening events took place, Attendance was lower than in previous years as members of the public were still cautious about socialising in doors, but the funds it generated were very much appreciated.

In September we welcomed back the mother and baby/toddler group which has been well supported by residents, not only from our village but surrounding one.

November and December bookings were almost non-existent, but we did manage to organise a much-appreciated senior residents Christmas lunch, which was well attended by tripled jabbed residents who were very keen to enjoy a safe social event. Ours thanks to Wainwrights for funding the welcoming drinks and Somerset Foundation for funds to purchase more catering equipment which meant we didn't burn the custard or gravy this time.

Throughout the year revenue was very hard to generate through hall bookings but we were able to obtain grants from organisations to help with community lead activities. Through Lottery funding bunting was made by the crafty ladies at the restarted Tuesday afternoon drop in, planters were obtained and planted up by a group of keen gardeners and look lovely in front of the hall. The cinema club got a boost and now showing films on a monthly basis.

Because of the closure we have been able to understand better the true running costs of the facility we are running. It became apparent that annual running costs which we thought were just under £4000 are much closer to 7 which to us, the volunteer committee is a bit scary. I think we are the only community group in the village that has this sort of burden to face each year.

We are grateful to MDC for their COVID support grant which allowed us to keep on top of our outgoing costs in 2021 and secure funds to protect the hall should we find ourselves in a similar situation in the future.

With such high overheads and the ongoing rise in cost of utilities at our last committee meeting we agreed to change our hall booking charges structure and go with a straightforward hourly hire charge of £10 per hour. We are hopeful that this will not only simplify booking the hall but keep it affordable and sustainable.

We have found that grants can be obtained to purchase items which encourage community lead activities or improvement to some facilities, like the disabled toilets which have now been modernised and can be considered as accessible changing facilities for all ages.

But grants are not available to help with the running costs or fixed over heads which wont go away. We hope 2022 will see more events in the hall which will help us cover these expenses and keep the community building available and accessible to our community whilst allowing the committee of volunteers to organise activities which bring together residents of all ages.