

UGBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL REPORT FOR UGBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2021

Ugborough Village Hall Committee manages the provision and maintenance of the Ugborough Village Hall facilities for the community of Ugborough and the surrounding area and is committed to enabling as many people as possible to access the facilities provided by the Village Hall.

The Committee meet monthly to which all user groups are welcome. These meetings provide a useful opportunity to share concerns, information and consult with users about the running of the Hall. The Committee has met using Zoom for twelve meetings during this last financial year with the Annual General Meeting being held at the Village Hall during September 2020 complying with the Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) restrictions applying at the time.

Due to Covid-19 and Government restrictions for this financial year, the Village Hall has unfortunately had limited use. However the Village Hall has been able to support an emergency Post Office when its usual venue was unavailable due to Covid-19 restrictions, support Preschool as an emergency venue for key worker children, Breakfast Club, Preschool, After School Club, an Ugborough Take Away event (using the kitchen only), First Aid courses and Support Ugborough Community Group Christmas Hamper Packing Event. All hires have been Covid-19 restriction compliant.

The Village Hall insurers have been kept informed of the Village Hall closures/openings in this financial year which have all been in accordance with government restrictions. Virus control measures have been in place and the cleaner/caretaker services continue within the Village Hall including additional cleans and 'fogging' as required.

This year has seen the project associated with raising the head height of the kitchen hatch/servery happen as the original head height was too low for Hall Users. This project has been possible thanks to a grant from the Lottery Awards for All Community Fund. The project had to be carried out over two half term holiday periods due to supply delays with some materials due to Covid-19. The project also included making good painted walls and replacement kitchen worktops to align through with the new sill. Due to Covid-19, a perspex screen has also been provided.

As the Village Hall has had limited opportunity to open this year, the Village Hall worked with the community group Support Ugborough to apply for and successfully receive a small Christmas community grant from Western Power Distribution's "In This Together - Community Matters Fund" for Christmas hampers for vulnerable members of our community. The hampers were put together and distributed by Support Ugborough.

Grants towards the cost of an updated Asbestos Management Survey Report carried out in the previous financial year were received in this last financial year from the Devon County Council Locality Fund (£400.00) and Ugborough Parish Council (£242.00).

The Village Hall accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 show the Hall to be in a healthy position financially despite limited opportunities to open for hire. The accounts reflect the generous Covid-19 small business support grants applied for and provided by the Government via South Hams District Council, totalling £21,003 to date, some use of the Hall (mainly by Preschool) and the continued day to day ad hoc support provided by volunteers giving their time at no cost. The accounts also reflect the financial support the Hall received from funding bodies and donations from local individuals. Thank you to you all.

The Committee continuously review the Hall envelope, fabric, systems and equipment including potential future improvements and uses. Minor repairs and replacements have been required in this last financial year. Planned annual legislative maintenance works have taken place as required during the year.

The hire charges are reviewed on an annual basis in May each year.

Our Village Hall has this year provided a brief summary of our Village Hall to the ACRE Domesday Book of Village Halls 2021 which celebrates village halls throughout the country and the contribution they have made to rural communities over the last 100 years.

The Village Hall enters the next financial year with COVID-19 and the Government restrictions roadmap for opening up in place for an unknown period of time –this will have some consequences for the Village Hall and it will also mean the monthly meetings will carry on being virtual for the time being.

The Parish Council defibrillator continues to be housed externally on the front of the Village Hall and all appropriate weekly and monthly checks are completed and reported to the Parish Council and South-Western Ambulance Service Accreditation Scheme.

We would like to pass on our thanks to all those, who for the last 12 months have been part of the Committee. The Committee wish to express their appreciation to all those who have provided support in various ways for the Village Hall, to the groups and individuals who have hired the Hall, and also the Government and those Bodies and Groups who have provided grant funding and/or made donations to the Hall.

Thanks also to our cleaner/caretaker Helaena Pilcher and her support team for keeping the Hall looking good and providing the additional support required due to Covid-19 requirements for Hall Users. Others have carried out the window cleaning.

As a final note, the Ugborough Village Hall Annual General Meeting is currently being planned to take place in the Village Hall and will be subject to Covid-19 restrictions. The date has yet to be confirmed with the required prior public notice being given before the meeting.

Kate Brampton
Treasurer
Charity no. 301002