

## Stansfield Village Hall's Report 2019-2020

This year the VH committee finally managed to finish the £30,000 grant fund raising project to get the village hall insulated, and I'd like to thank all those involved in securing the money for all the hard work that it entailed. Even better we saw the building work completed within a relatively short period from final money being granted. Grateful thanks, also, to Trevor Lang for his invaluable guidance and support. Everyone who has seen the hall since its refurbishment has remarked on what a good job our builders, Cutts Cousins, have done. It has made a marked difference to heating the Main Hall this winter.

The various annual events: the Plant Sale, the Quiz Night and the Christmas shopping evening, have all been very successful and have helped raise funds for the Village Hall.

Our long running cinema event 'Reel Time' finished on a high note with families boosting audience numbers for 'The Return of Mary Poppins'. However, this was not the end of projected events at the Village Hall. The VH committee is exploring different ways of using projected material to stimulate interest at a time when audiences have access to a wide range of high-quality visual media in their own homes. We held a very successful Race Night event in March – with enthusiastic support from Jake and Sandra Lakey. The showing of both our Cinema Events, the west end show 'Everybody's talking about Jamie' and 'The Railway Children' filmed live at the Yorkshire Railway Museum went down well and made a reasonable profit thanks to the license being subsidised by Creative Arts East. We also held a 'Stop Making Sense' night celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ground-breaking concert movie, with a screening followed by a live music event from post punk band 'Shoot the Pianist'.

Christine Town's car treasure hunt proved to be very popular, and with the added live music event generously offered by the Tin Giants, the whole day proved to be a great success. We had two other impromptu music events that came our way during the flux caused by changes at the pub. These brought new audiences to the hall who we aim to retain by continuing to offer live music events.

We have continued to support community events such as the village lunch (for whom we helped secure a grant for kitchen equipment) and knit and natter.

The hall has been hired out for parties for both children and adults.

The bridge club continue to be the mainstay of our regular hirers and we are grateful for their ongoing support. It was also good to see the Cricket Club back using the field and hall regularly, and I must thank them for doing such a good job of keeping the playing field looking spruce.

Thanks go to Mary Evans for raising valuable funds through the 100 Club and to Amanda Burton for all her hard work in keeping the VH clean and tidy. Thanks are also due to the Parish Council for their annual financial contribution toward running costs and other support and advice this year, and for organising the defibrillator that has been installed at the front of the building.

We have been delighted by the generosity of the Stansfield Bloomers who have provided and are maintaining two beautiful planted tubs at the entrance to the VH. These have made a significant impact to the external appearance of the building. The Bloomers have also planted out and will maintain the flower bed at the rear of the hall.

The VH Treasurer reported that our income last year (excluding insulation and playground projects) was £13,555 and that our expenses came to £9,383 this left us with a healthy surplus of £4,172.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> the VH committee held its last face to face meeting prior to the CV19 lockdown. Like so many other community and commercial venues the CV19 restrictions have meant that we have had to close our doors, with all the exciting new fund raising events planned for the next few months wiped off the calendar, as well as all of our hirers having to cancel their bookings.

The UK's Chief Medical Officer's suggestion that the CV19 social distancing measures could continue well after lockdown is over and the possibility that the hall could remain closed until the end of the year had serious implications for the VH financial stability. It was therefore a great relief to the VH committee to find that village halls had been included in the remit for the government Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG). A £10,000 donation has been secured for the VH accordingly.

During the CV19 lockdown the VH committee is continuing to hold regular monthly meetings via Zoom. We are conducting internal and external security checks and weeding the VH perimeter regularly. We have retained the services of our cleaner, Amanda Burton, who is giving the hall a regular freshen up and airing during lockdown and ensuring that the fire alarm system continues to be checked regularly.

Happily, CV19 restrictions are not preventing the VH committee from pursuing our most urgent project for 2020 – refurbishing the VH roof. Already tabled as the next VH building project the plan assumed greater urgency with the roof having suffered a great deal from the battering it took during the storms earlier this year. Preliminary structural surveys have recently been completed which will allow a plan of works and tenders to be developed in the coming weeks. We are currently in the process of seeking grant funding to replace the roof which the committee hopes will be assisted by the financial stability projected thanks to the RHLG government funding recently secured.

Derek Adams, Chair, Stansfield Village Hall Management Committee  
email: [friends@stansfieldvillage.org.uk](mailto:friends@stansfieldvillage.org.uk) phone: 01284 789192