

Ousden Village Hall and Playing Fields

Chair's Report to AGM Committee

October 2020

What a year this has been!

After a most successful year in 2019 the committee has had to cope with the repercussions of the Coronavirus Pandemic since March when we had to close the Hall and Play Park.

We were able to reopen the children's play area some time before the Hall which was a great relief to many parents. In September we were able to open the Hall to small groups only. Although one or two lettings had to be cancelled, we were unable to take further bookings, but we are remaining optimistic.

Yoga was held every week on the field in front of an old oak tree and regular setting suns! This kept many members of the committee inspired during the long hot summer. We were truly thankful for this. The Bowls Club has not been so fortunate and hasn't met since early Spring whilst the Cricket Club has had a most successful year.

I offer my thanks to all the Committee for their patience in keeping going under these circumstances. We have met regularly via Zoom or, at a distance, under the Pavilion. The Working Party welcomed Celia Holt to chair the group and she shown great fortitude in pressing ahead with our plans for a new Hall whilst awaiting the outcome of planning permission. New members, Tom and Sophie Mason, have joined the group recently, too. Many thanks, also, to Ousden Parish Council who continue to support us.

Trustees who are resigning this year are -Sylvia Pettitt, after many years of commitment and support now stepping back. Clare Brown will replace Paul Brown. Sarah Christie left to live in France before the pandemic. Thanks, too, go to Jane Ranner who resigned as Booking Clerk but remains on the committee. Her role is taken by Alice Holt and another newcomer is Victoria Lindsell who joined us at last year's AGM.

Our major events during the year was a Race Night in November and Valentine Ceilidh in February but since that we raised no other funds for the maintenance of the hall and playing fields. We were fortunate and thankful,

however, to receive a business Covid -19 grant which has helped us to survive in these difficult times.