

## **Ousden Village Hall and Playing Fields**

### **Chair's Report May 2021**

Coping with the repercussions of the Coronavirus in 2020 has been challenging. The hall was fully closed on 2 occasions and during this moment in time we have just reopened. This has enabled the use of hall as a polling station and some activities will be allowed soon. The committee has followed stringent Covid guidelines during the year and will need to adhere to these in the future. Much support from Community Action Suffolk has been forthcoming in the form of virtual training in many areas of need. The Parish Council has continued to support us financially as before.

We have been fortunate and grateful to receive business grants and other specific Covid related donations to help us survive without the income we usually expect. No major fundraising events have been held since the Ceilidh last February 2020, but we have tried to offer some virtual activities to the community such as a quiz and yoga sessions and these have been successful.

The children's play area has been kept open most of the time which was a great relief to most parents during the lockdown.

Clubs such as bowls and yoga inside were abandoned but will shortly resume and we hope to have a full calendar of events for the rest of the year. The cricketers met infrequently on the field, but yoga went from strength to strength during the summer months when we met regularly outside under the old oak tree.

At the AGM in October we had one resignation- Sylvia Pettitt- who has retired after many years of loyal service. We welcomed Victoria Lindsell, Clare Brown last year and Alice Holt has taken over as bookings clerk now. John Gale continues to attend our committee meetings and also the regular working party meetings.

Plans for the rebuild of the hall have taken a step back this year which is not surprising. We are still awaiting planning permission and our attempts at fundraising have had to be cut back due to the pandemic. Until then we were doing well and were on course with the business plan. The intention is to have another village update on progress in September.

My thanks go to all committee members for their dedication during this past year of upheaval and to the Parish Council for their support.