

## **OUSDEN VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS**

### **Report to Parish Council**

**Chris Ingham -Chair of Committee**

May 2022

Last year seems along time ago but we had quite a successful time overall in spite of the pandemic. Some events, arranged by the committee, were held virtually such as the November wine tasting and March Quiz.

Although the Village Hall was closed for a considerate time, by July we were able to fully open again and the committee have tried to keep things on track as much as possible.

In mid- July we held an enjoyable Village Open Gardens and also helped out at Ousden House when they had their NGS opening at the end of June. We were lucky with the weather on both days.

Our popular Pop- up Café opened in May until September and was well supported. This is entirely run by volunteers and raises money for the new hall. Funds are slowly and gradually being raised for the new hall but Covid has impacted hugely in terms of building costs and we have had to review our plans. At present the architect is redrawing the plans for a smaller building on the existing site.

The Ousden Lottery also brings in some funds each year, once again going into the coffers for the new build.

Our largest summer fete, yet, happened at the beginning of September. The Mad Hatter's Tea Party took a great deal of time to organise but we had plenty of volunteers in the end and it turned out to be a most successful event.

Bowls, yoga and cricket continue but there has been a reduced number of lettings this year which is understandable. Fortunately, we have been busy applying for small grants to keep us going and West Suffolk County Council have supported all village halls and businesses throughout the pandemic.

We welcomed a couple of new members to the committee whilst 2 others have taken a back seat due to work commitments this year. It is still difficult to recruit volunteers. For the past 2 years we've had a cleaner and booking clerk helping out but, sadly, Alice has now resigned and we haven't, so far, got a replacement.

The following people are now on the committee:

Chris Ingham -Chair and Secretary; Jessamy Saltmarsh -Treasurer

Julie Pryke; Victoria Fanstone; Clare Brown;

Celia Holt; Matt and Rebecca Alexander; John Gale (PC Rep)