

Chairman's Report 2021-2022

2021 continued in the same vein as 2020 with massive disruption due to COVID-19. So it was a challenging year for all. For a lot of the year either we were unable to open the hall for normal use or our regular users were unwilling to make use of the hall. Things did improve in the second half of the year as the Parish Council, W.I. and Arts Society were able to hold some meetings.

The Charity was again helped by the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant that the government made available.

Despite the restrictions we were able to organise a few events and fund raisers. In August Ian Sharlot organised an Open Gardens weekend which generated a lot of interest, so, many thanks to Ian for that. Ian also tried a new venture in producing and selling Christmas cards in aid of the hall which went very well, thanks again Ian, I think this is something we will look to do annually now. In December we ran our annual Christmas Fete which went very successfully and was largely organised by Tania Sketchley, thank you Tania. And we were very pleased to run another successful Christmas puzzle sheet for which we give Jen Sample enormous thanks for writing and marking it.

The Lotto 100 Club was also run in 2021, with a different timetable to previous years, running from April 2021 to March 2022 in an attempt to spread activities more across the year. The Committee would like to thank all those in the community who help to support the Hall through this venture.

Despite the lower than normal level of activity at the hall, the committee has still been busy working on the project to provide a new village hall. Construction was disrupted by COVID-19 but I am happy to say that we are very close to having the hall handed over to us.

With events being restricted by COVID-19 our treasurer, Matt Bates, has been hard at work over the year applying to various fund-givers for grants to help us provide additional facilities in the new hall. I'm pleased to say that he's had a really good success rate and this will help massively in the provisions of new tables, chairs, blackout blinds and the like. So a big thank you to Matt for his work on that. We also ran a sponsored-brick campaign and again this was probably more successful than we thought, getting support from local residents as well as local businesses. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated.

That summarises our year, I sincerely hope that COVID-19 continues its downward impact on our lives and that we will see life in our new hall ramping up throughout the year. I would like to give my thanks to all the members of the Hall Management Committee, who have given much time and effort to raise funds to supplement the income from lets, to oversee the maintenance, to scrutinise the development of the new hall and to provide enjoyable events to bring the community together. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and dedication.

Mike Thackery

Chair, Marston Montgomery Coronation Hall Committee

Registered Charity Number 1085703