

## Earl Stonham Village Hall Annual Report – 2020-21

Along with all other similar establishments, it has been a very chequered year, with hardly any bookings and all our normal events cancelled. As I write this in April however, it does look like there might be light at the end of the tunnel with limited re-opening possible from mid-May. Of course it remains to be seen how long it takes for everyone to feel confident about meeting face to face again but you can rest assured that the hall committee will do all that is necessary to provide a safe environment for all our users.

As they say, every cloud has a silver lining and in the case of the hall, the forced closure and availability of the necessary funding permitted the long awaited refurbishment of the main hall. A huge amount of the work was done by volunteers and the savings made by not having to pay specialists and getting much better prices on materials, meant that we ended up being able to do far more work than originally planned.

The original scope of work was all completed as planned, including the new roof, air source heat pump heating, new suspended ceiling and lighting, the new beech semi sprung floor, new audio video system and curtains including black-out blinds. In addition to these main items, we also managed to complete the following:

Improved under-stage storage

Timber cladding of the external gable end wall

A new PA system

New padded chairs

Plaster-boarding the rear corridor ceiling

New entrance mats and stage carpet - thanks to a donation from the Stonham Theatre Guild

The other major improvement has been to the car park entrance. Even with the additional items above, we still had some of the original funding left over and with the Parish Council and Earl Stonham Trust contributing to the work, as well as funding from our District Councillor locality budget, this gave us sufficient funds to rebuild 100sq m of the drive and improve areas of the main car park itself. This also allowed us to move the recycling bins nearer the entrance which has freed up car park space.

We have managed to keep the village quiz nights running on Zoom and thanks to David Wicks and John Jones for their quiz-master help. Hopefully before too long we will be able to return to face to face quizzes in the hall.

**Tony Turner**

**Chairman - Earl Stonham Village Hall Management Committee**