

Earl Stonham Village Hall Annual Report – 2021-22

With the gradual easing of Covid restrictions over the last year, in recent months hall use has been almost back to pre-covid levels but we have still ended the year several thousand pounds down on our normal rental income. Fortunately this has been offset by a further government business continuity grant and income from pub nights, so our overall financial position remains comfortable.

As reported in the last annual report, the Committee have been focussing on taming the wild area behind the hall to produce a tranquil outdoor space. This is now mostly complete and it has been named in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a formal opening ceremony planned to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations in June.

Quiz nights have continued over the year with them returning to face-to-face in June. David Wicks took a break from quiz-mastering and Norman Davis has again joined the team.

Pub nights continue to be popular and make a significant contribution to hall finances.

Despite all the concerns around Covid in November and December, the STG pantomime went ahead with a live audience – albeit rather reduced in numbers.

One concern for the next financial year is the massive increase in electricity costs that we are facing. The per-unit cost will increase by almost 120% in April and it looks unlikely that this can be absorbed within the current hire rates, so an increase in the Autumn looks inevitable. The only consolation is that prior to installing the new heating, the per-hour cost to run the old heating would have been an eye-watering £6 per hour!

Tony Turner

Chairman - Earl Stonham Village Hall Management Committee