MAIDS MORETON VILLAGE HALL – Annual Parish Report 2021

Unfortunately 2020 was not a good year financially for the Village Hall. Our Bookings were down 53% on the previous year with the various restrictions caused by the three lockdown periods and many of the user groups and in particular the U3A groups now operating via Zoom from home.

Hopefully in the not too distant future as the number of people vaccinated increases and the Country opens up further then the Hall will re-open and welcome all of our regular users back again.

The effect of the closures has meant that the Hall recorded a Loss of £(3,770) for the year. We have been building some reserves over the years but the intention was always that these reserves were to be used to replace the roof structure of the building which we know will be a major cost. The roof has not failed yet but we are monitoring it on a regular basis so that action can be taken if any weaknesses appear.

There appears to be little financial support available for Village Halls and particularly for small Charities if you do have Reserves and of course if any relief is announced we will make an application for the Hall.

It is still a shame though that the efforts to try to build a fund to benefit the Hall and the Village are thwarted by having to absorb the Loss caused by not being able to open the Hall.

We have asked a local builder to quote for a total replacement of the roof so once we get the quote we will start applying for Grants that may be available to try and help towards what we are expecting to be quite a large bill so if you see people on the roof or walking around with a tape measure please do not be concerned this is what they are doing.

We are also replacing all of the lighting in the Hall with more modern LED fittings which should give both brighter light and make some savings on the electricity used. We are further upgrading the fire warning system and the fire exit lighting so that everything will comply with the new regulations. We hope that this work will start during March and will take several days.

A new fire door has been fitted to the Kitchen area which is now fully fire compliant and contains a window so that you can see through the door before opening it and walking through when maybe someone else is coming the other way with a hot Tea Pot or tray of cups.

The Hall is looking good so we hope that when the current lockdown eases that it will be the end of the closures and that the Hall will be open and booked regularly by all the user groups we enjoy having use the Hall.

We would especially like to thank the user Groups that continued paying for their sessions in the Hall even though through the initial Lockdown they were not able to physically use the Hall. These payments have really helped with the condition of the Hall.

David Owen /Hon Treasurer