

Brundall Memorial Hall Trustees

AGM

Chairperson's Report

For everyone, 2020 has not turned out the way many had anticipated or planned. Our nation has had to make huge adjustments to its way of life, and the Memorial Hall has not been immune from that.

I've been immensely proud of the way that the Trustees, along with Jeanette and Sharon, have responded to the impact of the pandemic. The trustees have maintained their meetings in order to transact business, meeting via zoom when required. They have worked hard to ensure that the appropriate COVID-19 safety measures have been put in place. This dedication meant that the hall could reopen in September as lockdown-restrictions eased. Lockdown 2 has meant that the hall is once again closed, but the work that was undertaken to reopen after the first lockdown means that we are in a good place to be able to quickly respond to changes in the Government-imposed restrictions. We continue to work as a team to ensure we are following the latest Government advice.

During the last lockdown, the trustees made use of the Government furlough scheme as a way of balancing the reduction of income through bookings against expenditure. During this lockdown, the trustees made the decision not to use the scheme straight away, but to enable the time when the hall is closed to the public to be used to complete some of the tasks that are difficult to carry out when the hall is booked, e.g. thorough deep cleaning, maintenance work etc.

The former changing rooms have been refurbished to create the new Memorial Hall office which is now operational. The small meeting room is also undergoing refurbishment to create a more useable, friendly space.

A defibrillator has been installed at the front of the hall and we thank Richard Farley for his hard work in securing the funding and ensuring that the unit remains operational.

We had said 'goodbye' to some trustees during the year: Frank and Josh. We thank them for the contribution they have made to the life of the hall. We have welcomed Andrew Bonham on to the trustees as the Parish Council representative.

In the coming months, the Trustees will be working closely with Community Action Norfolk in order for us to change the status of the hall to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in order to ensure the Memorial Hall is protected and available to the community into the future. We'll be making sure the community are kept informed and are regularly updated as we progress.

With the news emerging that the appeal against the planning decision concerning the land east of the Memorial Hall has been upheld, the Trustees continue to be committed to work in partnership with the Parish Council and others to ensure that the recreational provision that emerges is cohesively planned, fully accessible to the community and is sustainable in the longterm.

Peter Leech
Chair of Brundall Memorial Hall Trustees
November 2020