

Since the Hall was closed in March 2020, the Trustees decided to use the time to update the decoration and refurbishment of the Hall. A great deal was achieved towards this aim.

At the end of 2020, it was discovered that the long neglected waste/foul water system from the Hall had to be replaced. ESC made us aware that without adequate drainage the Hall could not be used. Where and how to comply with this directive. A right existed to drain on to neighbouring land, but to install a new Cesspool there would be a major challenge, both for the Hall and the neighbouring land owner. Various enquiries were made. The major question being, could a sealed cesspool be fitted onto ACH land? Google revealed that a cesspool had to be at least 7 metres from a residential dwelling. We did not have 7 meters of land behind the Hall. We sought advice from the professionals. The Drain Doctors sought permission from ESC, pointing out that the Hall was not residential and that the cesspool could be placed nearer the Hall. The Council agreed and a cesspool was installed on Hall land at the rear of the building. This cost a large amount of money, however Garfield Weston agreed that their grant could be used for this and the rest was made up by an anonymous donation.

Since the installation, a local resident has raised a complaint that no planning permission was given. The application put in by the Drain Doctors was passed by Building Regulations. An enquiry was made if Planning permission was required and as this was a relocation and the Hall was not a residence, no Planning Permission was needed. The Drain Doctors have now applied for retrospective Planning Permission and we are waiting for the outcome.

The kitchen was another problem. The local council had already told us that the

walkway to the toilets going through the kitchen was not acceptable to modern standards of hygiene. The only alternative was to move the kitchen to the room adjacent to the Reading Room and use the old kitchen for storage. The room was painted in readiness for the installation using money donated in memory of a dear friend. Estimates and finances were sought, as was advice from the local council. Thankfully a further grant was obtained from the Ganzoni Trust, enabling the budget for the kitchen to be increased. The Wren kitchen was finally installed by the end of November. An inspection took place by a representative from the Environmental Health Dept. and given a 5 star rating.

The Reading Room was redecorated and to mark the recent death of Mrs Elizabeth Rice a plaque and photo have been placed there, as her generosity enabled the Hall to be saved as a village asset. This room provides a space for small group meetings, and stocks books, puzzles etc which can be borrowed. A Grant from Colin Hedgley's Amenity Fund has enabled the installation of a safe hand rail, marking for the steps and repairs to the outside door. This gives safe and independent access/exit to both the Hall and the Reading Room.

The Hall open intermittently between July and September 2021 in line with Government guidance. It was closed again in December due to new restrictions. However the Porch at the Hall became a drop off point for donations for FIND during Advent.

With the recent relaxation of restrictions the Hall is now available for hire and a programme of social events has been drawn up. A premises license has been granted which enables the sale of alcohol after 6pm and the showing of films and other entertainment. There is also a current TV and MPL license.

We have been delighted to have been able to offer the opportunity for voluntary work to two young people who are working for their DoE award.

Not only are we a Community Resource and a Charity, we are endeavoring to be as carbon neutral as possible, installing double glazed windows and LED lighting. We have also created a wildlife area behind the Hall with a native hedging, courtesy of the Woodland Trust, a small pond and a wildflower area.

A change of management structure has been made as Roger Roseboom has stepped down as Chairman and Helen Northover and Peter Carr are now co-chair persons. Thankfully Roger has agreed to continue as Chief Fundraiser and chair of the Management Committee. It is due to his untiring work that it is to be hoped that the success of the Hall as a Community Resource will continue to thrive.