**Woldingham Village Hall (Charity No. 304994)**

**Chair’s Report for the year ended 31 December 2021**

2021 was another 'covid' challenged year for the Hall, and we were again unable to hold our normal AGM during the year. The level of hirings was understandably slow but by December had begun to return to normal levels. Most of our regular users managed to stay active but we knew it would be tough for all of them so the hall did what it could to help by reducing rates. We received some help ourselves with generous support grants from Tandridge District Council to partly offset the lack of hire income as well as covering our increased costs in complying with pandemic regulations.

Hirings over the last two years have been about half of our normal levels, so the trustees have focused on cost controls and keeping the facilities open as far as we were allowed to ensure that we didn’t fall into deficit. I am pleased to report that we have again been able to record a surplus for the year to add to our reserves which remain healthy.

A number of major investments in upgrading our facilities were made during the year, principally to upgrade to our cctv system to give us wider coverage and greater ease of review, to improve the WiFi service by upgrading to Fibre and to install new lights for the badminton court.

Maintenance of our facilities to a high standard has always been our policy and this year has seen plenty of activity. As a result of disease we had to remove a very old ash tree but will be replacing it in 2022 with a native tree once the ground has settled. The main boilers in the hall required significant repairs in December and we experienced the usual need for other repairs and replacements to continue to provide a high quality service to users.

In October, we welcomed Nigel Hodd to the Committee of Management as a new Trustee, representing the interests of the Horticultural Society. Once again, I would like to extend my thanks to a number of people whose personal dedication and commitment enable the Hall to run so well - to our very able Booking Secretary for her great assistance to all our hirers and keeping the facilities running and to all the trustees for their much valued commitment, ideas and wisdom applied to the stewarding of the hall through this difficult year.

Martin Lewis

Chair of Trustees