

Abbots Morton Village Hall

Spring Newsletter

May 2021 – Covid Edition 4

Thanks Mel ..you've been great

Melanie Clarke has stood down as Chair of the village hall committee after seven years at the helm. Mel told trustees at the AGM that, with regret, she was also standing down from the committee altogether.

"Life has just got too busy," said Mel. "Despite an odd year, the village hall is financially secure and in a sound position moving forwards, so I believe now is the time for a change."

New Chair



Taking over from Mel as Chair is Lynne Pemberton who has served on the committee for many years. Lynne, from Goom's Hill, is a retired Head of Music and Performing Arts in Birmingham Secondary Schools and a former Governor of Church Lench Primary School.

Lynne said: "Melanie took on the chair at a difficult time, built up a good team and captained the ship with strong resolve,"

"Having been her secretary, I couldn't be more proud to be elected to carry on her great vision for the hall and its future."

New Secretary

Taking over as Secretary from Lynne is Pat Willingale.

Pat, who joined the village hall committee shortly after coming to live in Abbots Morton four years ago, said "I have a hard act to follow in Lynne, but will do my best for the Team!"



Indoor PicnicLets Get Together Again

An "Indoor picnic" is being held on Sunday June 27th in the village hall as an opportunity for our community to meet together after months of Lockdown and Covid restrictions.

It'll start at 12noon and go on until 4pm. Everyone is welcome but there will be a limit of 50 people on the expectation that social distancing will still be required.

Anyone who wants to come is asked to bring their own food and drink and crockery and cutlery. You'll be able to sit socially distanced at tables laid out in and outside the hall.

If you know you are coming, please reserve your seat as soon as you can by calling Lynne Pemberton on 01386 792549 or by e-mail at colinlynnepemberton@supanet.com

The Indoor Picnic is organised by St Peter's church which normally holds a fundraising Flower Festival Lunch on the last weekend in June. But against a background of Covid anxiety for many people, they decided not to have the traditional buffet with people queuing for food cooked in various homes and instead hold a "self-contained" picnic.

The picnic is for anyone in our community. It's not a church fund raiser, entry is free, and there'll be no raffle. Do feel welcome to get together with those you may not have seen for ages.

Walk-In Wednesday... Do Drop in

To give further opportunities to meet together after months of Covid lockdown, the village hall is starting a weekly drop in sessions on Wednesday mornings.

The first Walk-in Wednesday will be on July 7th from 10am to 1pm. Just walk-in, or come by car or bike, and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a cake and a biscuit.

There's no entry fee... just come and chat and meet others in person. Don't feel lonely, come and say hello on Walk-In Wednesday.

Litter Pick – Thankyou... a tidy job.



Sarah Dykes' Litter Pick initiative was taken up positively by a number of people in the community. Here's just some of the rubbish that was picked up around the village

AGM... strange year but financially secure

In her Annual Report as outgoing Chair of the Village Hall, Melanie Clarke remarked on a challenging year all round, but said the Village Hall has survived with thanks to an extremely hard working and positive team.

As at 31st December 2020 the Treasurer's Account stood at £8,509 and the Deposit Account at £719. Total: £9,228

We have been extremely fortunate to have received... along with all village halls in the UK... substantial Government grants to help with loss of earnings over the pandemic period. The first grant last summer was of £10,000 given through their Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant, administered via Wychavon District Council. In February this year a further four grants totalling £8,435 were given. An extra Covid grant of £2,096 was received this month.

Altogether that's a total of £20, 531 which means the hall will be financially secure throughout the pandemic. Our annual costs work out around £4,000 and with income severely reduced, the Government grants will cushion us as we recover from the pandemic.

Ramblers

Stourbridge Ramblers kindly requested the use of our car park on April 25th. As long as we don't have a booking for the hall we are happy to give walking groups permission to use the car park. They kindly made a donation of £27 for its use.

Bookings: a slow climb back

One of our regular hirers is returning later in the year. VetImage from Kent are hiring the hall one Saturday a month in September, October, November and December.

Sadly, our JUMP ballet classes for youngsters on Wednesday afternoons have become a victim of Covid. Helena Mitchell has had to find afternoon employment as a result of the lockdown and doesn't have enough adult wanting to learn ballet to run an evening class. We're grateful to Helena for her support of our hall over the years.

We're hoping that yoga classes, both Hay and Hatha, will be returning as soon as they are allowed after May 17th.

We're pleased to say there's a family party taking place on Saturday June 26th, followed the next day by the Indoor Picnic.

We have two bookings for wedding receptions, one in July and another in October, with other potential bookings in July and August.

Elections this Thursday

This Thursday, May 6th, is your first opportunity to come back to the Village Hall since Lockdown .

Our Covid-secure measures will be in place with a one-way system designed to avoid breaches of social distancing rules.

Please come in through the front door, two metres apart from the person ahead of you, and use the hand gel dispenser on the wall to your right.

You are asked to bring your own pencil but Polling Station staff will have disinfected pencils as an alternative.

The exit is through the first set of Fire Doors and there is another gel-dispenser on the wall alongside. The hours of polling are 7am to 10pm.

Your Trustees... come and join us.

The Village Hall Trustees are:-

Chair: Lynne Pemberton 01386 792549;

Secretary: Pat Willingale

Treasurer Sarah Dykes 07411 633148;

Bookings Officer, Colin Pemberton 07766 524833,

Parish Council Representative : Martin Willingale 07484 104967

Parochial Church Council Representative: Lynne Pemberton

If you would like to join the Village Hall Committee and be part of a great team please get in touch with any of us.

Colin Pemberton, PRO, May 2021