

Report from Donyatt Hall Booking Secretary for the 2022 AGM

This report is for the financial year 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

The financial year started with the Hall effectively still closed as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, the restrictive requirements required in order to maintain social distancing and the reluctance of certain user groups to restart their activities. As the requirements slowly changed, due in part to the vaccination campaign and the realisation that life had to get back to some sort of normality, hires started to pick up from May. Some of our previous regular groups decided to cease their activities and one, the Social Club Whist, only indicated its intention to restart in April 2022.

All is not doom and gloom! The table below shows the bookings made during the year and these can be compared to the previous four years when we were fully open. After a slow start you will observe that bookings have been building up and we are almost back to the levels pre the pandemic

The table below shows the total number of sessions booked throughout the 2021-2022 financial year, as compared to 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. The dip in bookings in 2017-2018 appears to be have been an exception to the norm.

TOTAL No. OF SESSIONS HIRED					
MONTH	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/22
April	31	21	36	27	0
May	32	29	33	28	7
June	39	19	21	30	11
July	30	17	28	34	8
August	20	16	20	26	19
September	26	17	28	29	18
October	22	27	26	41	26
November	18	24	33	31	30
December	24	20	28	24	20
January	33	23	27	30	25
February	30	22	35	32	30
March	26	20	27	15*	36
TOTALS	331	255	342	347*	230

Note: the Coronavirus crisis effectively closed the Hall from 24th March 2020 until May 2021 during which time there was little income from hiring the facilities.

Invoicing for the 2021/20 financial year totalled approximately £4800 for Hall hires, compared to £7252 in 2019/20, £7485 in 2018/19 and £5916.50 in 2017/18 financial years. This significant reduction is due to the 7 week closure of the Hall at the beginning of the year and the slow build-up of hires as groups regained confidence in meeting again.

In the past few months we have seen an increase in bookings from new groups using the facilities, for example:

1. A monthly Lego Club for children.
2. The monthly Food and Craft Market that started in August 2021.
3. A special school in Yeovil has booked the Hall on 15 occasions for PE classes. (We are convenient location for them and their instructor from Colyton.)
4. A department of Somerset County Council Social Services have started to hire the Hall for meetings and training. In the period February to June 2022 they have hired the Hall on 22 occasions.

However, the Zoga classes remain our best client with bookings on most Monday and Wednesday evenings.

We remain a favoured venue for children's parties.

We have a booking for a Wedding Reception taking place in May 2023.

We took the decision in November 2021 to maintain our hire fees at the rates that had been agreed for January 2020 onwards. During the pandemic we had received various government grants to assist in the maintenance of the facilities in preparedness for re-opening and to encourage communities to socialise together as in previous times. The Management Committee's policy is that hire income should cover the day-to-day running costs of the facilities with improvements paid from fundraising activities and grants that are sometimes available.

Hire rates have previously been amended for hires from the 1st January each year. The Committee will have to carefully consider whether to bring this date forward this year due to the current rate of inflation increasing our costs.

Phil King
Booking Secretary
Donyatt Village Hall
April 2022