

Report from Donyatt Hall Booking Secretary for the 2023 AGM

This report is for the financial year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

At the commencement of the financial year we were beginning to see signs of recovery in the number of bookings as life started to get back to normal following the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic on peoples social interactions.

Although we lost the bookings of three of the U3A groups during the year these have been more than replaced with a large number of bookings from different departments of the local authorities, in particular the Social Services. They have found the facilities a suitable central venue for team meetings as Donyatt is well situated for access from Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater, South Petherton etc. The dedicated car parking facility is a big plus for them. As the news of the convenience of the Hall spread we have taken several bookings from the NHS, again for team meetings. We have had to be careful with some of these larger bookings because of the maximum number of attendees and cars that we can accommodate. This has been largely overcome by car sharing, something that the government bodies are keen to promote. During the year we have had an income of in excess of £3,000 from these bodies.

In addition to the loss of U3A bookings we also lost the monthly Lego Club, which closed because of change in funding support, and the monthly Food and Craft Market closed because it was not financially viable for the organisers.

The table below shows the number of sessions booked during the year and the comparison with those in the previous five years. (The day is divided into 3 sessions, morning, afternoon and evening.) The overall number of sessions booked in the 2022-2023 financial year were substantially higher than the pre pandemic years.

MONTH	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/22	2022/23
April	31	21	36	27	0	26
May	32	29	33	28	7	43
June	39	19	21	30	11	39
July	30	17	28	34	8	25
August	20	16	20	26	19	34
September	26	17	28	29	18	32
October	22	27	26	41	26	41
November	18	24	33	31	30	36
December	24	20	28	24	20	34
January	33	23	27	30	25	27
February	30	22	35	32	30	24
March	26	20	27	15*	36	41
TOTALS	331	255	342	347*	230	402

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 2022 - 2023 financial year totalled approximately £8500 for Hall hires, compared to £4800 in 2021/2022, £7252 in 2019/20, £7485 in 2018/19 and £5916.50 in 2017/18 financial years.

The Hall remains a firm favourite for children's birthday parties and reviews on social media have been excellent and prompted further bookings.

The Zoga classes on Mondays and Wednesdays remain our best private client. The continued support from the Social Club and Gemini Carnival Club is appreciated.

The Management Committee decided to again maintain our hire charges at the rates fixed in January 2020 for the 2022-2023 financial year. This decision was taken due to us being in an enviable position of having fixed our electricity charges until March 2024 and it was felt that this good fortune should be passed on to our hirers. 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 they did in pre-pandemic times.

Hire rates for the period after March 2024 will have to rise as both our energy costs and other inflationary costs will certainly continue to increase and in due course the Hall Management Committee will have to decide at what level the fee shall be set.

Phil King
Booking Secretary
Donyatt Village Hall
April 2023