

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR LYNEHAM VILLAGE HALL AGM 2022**

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to you all. I apologise now for the length of this report – it will be a little longer than others I have given due to the fact that we have not had an AGM since 2019. A little matter of a Pandemic and then a flood kinda got in the way.

Where to begin – I guess at the beginning. Back in 2019 at one of our committee meetings, Rod Gill reported that he had noticed fallen broken roof tiles on the path outside the building. This, of course, was a health and safety issue and needed to be dealt with very quickly. Michael and Sue said they would get three quotes from local roofing companies. Whilst this was being done we were advised to have a complete building survey done on the property in case, taking the tiles from the roof, showed up other problems we knew nothing about, that would then affect our grant applications. With financial help from our Parish Council, for which we were very grateful, the survey was done and it did show up problems we knew nothing about the first being our drains, they were completely blocked. We called in Dyno Rod who did a camera survey of our drains, discovered our problems and put them right. Once again we could not have done this without financial help from our Parish Council, our grateful thanks.

Next we were advised to compile a five year plan from the survey, as this would help us enormously when applying for grants. Having taken this advice we did the five year plan then set about applying for grants. We were asking for grants to just do **year one** of our plan. I say WE, but it was our secretary Jane who was doing the grant applications, thank you Jane. Whilst applying for these grants we were asking 4 building companies for quotes to just do the work for **year one** which, of course, included a new roof. From these quotes we chose Gaiger and it was agreed that they would start in July 2020 when schools broke up as this hall was not used so much. Then, as you all know, a Pandemic hit us in March 2020 so we had to close the hall.

A little while later we were told we could open for a few groups as long as we followed all the Covid rules. Sue and Michael very kindly guided us through all that we needed to do in order to be able to open again. I think we were open

for just a few weeks when, one morning, I came in to show a prospective client our facilities only to be met with a very wet hall floor. One of the pipes in the ladies was leaking. On more inspection I discovered the ladies floor, the kitchen floor, under the stage, the gent's floor, the two small corridors and two thirds of this floor were flooded. That day, Frank, Jane, Rod, Robin and myself did our utmost to mop up the flood as best we could. Our insurance company were informed immediately.

In came the Assessors followed a few days later by the dryers. These dryers did the job but they were a real pain for several weeks as we had to empty their buckets and least once a day. This is also the time when Jane became extremely busy and very invaluable. Jane had already started applying for grants now she had to deal with our claims from the insurance company, which was not easy. Not long after this disaster the country went into another lock down. In a way this did us a great favour because we knew we couldn't open for a long time.

Time is marching on and I think we are now in 2021. We were now being granted the funds we had applied for and we were getting our insurance claim dealt with. We had grants to renew the roof etc. and now with the insurance money, we had to put right all the damage the flood had done to the inside of the building. All this time we were communicating with Gaiger keeping them up to date with our progress. Obviously, **year one** of our five year plan went out of the window so it was then we asked Gaigers if they would do all the work needed to get our building up and running again. This they agreed to and eventually they were able to start work on the roof, after which the work on the inside of the building was tackled. At first we actually thought we might be able to get the entire five year plan done but we didn't quite make it.

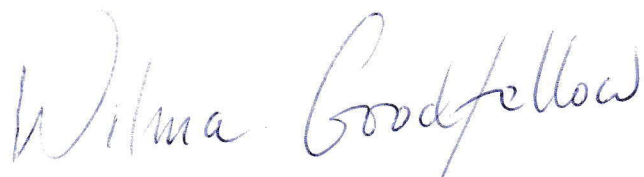
So gosh what have we achieved? We have a new roof, new flooring where needed, a lovely new kitchen. We have had all the electrics checked. We have had a Fire Risk Assessment done. Thanks to the customers of the local Co-op we have new curtains for the stage. We have a fully fitted Audio System with projector and screen. The Parish Council arranged for Wifi to be installed, thank you. My word we might be old but we are so up to date. There are just a few jobs left to do from our five year plan but I am sure these will be dealt with as soon as possible.

As most of you know this is my last report, I am now stepping down from the committee. I would just like to finish by saying a huge thank you to all the members of the committee. The last two years have been a little difficult and a little frustrating at times but we got through it. Thank you all for your hard work always being there when I needed help or advice. Always forgiving my mistakes or forgetfulness. Thanks to Jan for her booking skills, Sue and Michael for guiding us through all the rules and regulations regarding Covid. Jim and his boys for doing our odd jobs when needed and looking after the fire alarms. Steff for helping with the Audio stuff. Jenny for stepping in when I was not available. Rod for helping when we had the flood and for mending the fence. Not forgetting Kate who was always available when needed. Last but by no means least Margaret and Jane. I would like to thank them both whole heartedly for all they have done. Margaret our Treasurer who has always kept a tight rein on our finances telling us when we could spend and when we couldn't, and Jane who worked tirelessly completing grant forms, insurance claim forms and endless phone calls about both. It's not just me thanking you but all of the committee, thank you both.

It has been an honour and a pleasure to be Chairman of this lovely committee. We have always worked as a very happy team and had fun whilst doing the work. Thank you.

I now wish the new committee and the new Chairman the very best for the coming year.

Wilma Goodfellow

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wilma Goodfellow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.