

MIDLEM VILLAGE HALL SCIO

Trustees Report March 2021 – March 2022

The year from March 2021 – March 2022 continued to see our community affected by the global Covid pandemic and Midlem Village and the village hall had to constantly adapt to the changing situation.

The village hall thankfully was opened up again for lets, with the risk assessment and conditions of hire continually changed to meet the ever-evolving national situation and the rules and laws laid down by the Scottish Government.

During the course of the year the following activities got underway again in the hall –

- The monthly village Coffee Pop In
- Weekly yoga classes
- Weekly pilates classes
- Monthly WRI meetings
- Monthly Borders Modern Quilt Group meetings
- Weekly Scottish dance classes

There has also been a steady demand for hire of the hall for one off events such as children's parties and other social gatherings.

Having had to cancel the planned seasonal social events at Christmas and New Year because of the Covid situation at that time, we now look forward to organising village social gatherings, enabling the community to come together. This will start with a Platinum Jubilee garden party in June and then the Flower Show and BBQ in August.

Hall Improvements

Over the past year the following improvements have been made to the hall –

- The old stage has been replaced with new flexible, modular style staging
- An additional door has been made into the large, walk in storage area at the end of the large hall to allow us to make better use of that storage area
- A new PA system has been purchased
- The patio doors have been fixed and now open easily
- The electrical certificates and safety checks are now up to date and the fire extinguishers have been serviced

Other Village Developments

Following a village consultation in the Spring of 2021 the following village developments have happened –

- The water pump on the Green has been restored by village residents and is now working again after a gap of decades!
- A boules court has been constructed on the field behind the village hall, again by village residents, and boules equipment and seating purchased for this area. It is for the use of the hall village and provides another space and activity for socialising outdoors.
- A new outdoor shed has been designed and constructed
- A stall for surplus plants and produce has been constructed and is situated at the front of the hall. It was well used last growing season and will hopefully start being used again this year as gardening gets underway again!
- A Midlem history project has started with three residents working on this. Their first project will be an information board about the history of the village which will be placed on the Green.
- The fencing around the village field and at the Common was repaired and replaced as necessary and new gates put in place to enable the village hall field to be enclosed when necessary and to make the quarry area on the Common safe.
- The basket swing seat was replaced with a bigger upgrade at the request of the children of the village!
- Table umbrellas have been purchased for the outside tables.
- New lights have been purchased for the village Christmas tree

These developments have been funded through a variety of means.

As well as a steady stream of income again from hall lets we have had income from the following sources –

- ✓ Scottish Government Covid business funds
- ✓ Langhope Rig Windfarm Community Funds A and B
- ✓ Servitude monies from EDF
- ✓ Lillieslear, Ashkirk and Midlem Community Council

The work and developments documented here have been possible because of the commitment and hard work of many villagers. We feel lucky to live in a lovely village with an excellent community.

Joan McKay – Chairperson, Midlem Village Hall SCIO on behalf of Midlem Village Hall SCIO Trustees