



UPDATE - APRIL 2020

1. Introduction

Firstly, I hope that you are well in these most unusual times. As you will appreciate, the AGM for the Tynninghame Village Hall (the "**Village Hall**"), which would ordinarily be held in April, has had to be postponed. We will look to hold a replacement meeting as soon as practicable, even if this ends up having to be via telephone or video conference. However, in the meantime, this update is designed to provide you with details which would otherwise have been discussed at the AGM.

The last year has (save for the last few weeks of course) been a busy one in the life of the Village Hall, both in terms of events as well as behind the scenes fundraising efforts. Many thanks to all of you who have attended events (especially to those who have played some part in organising these) as well as those who have contributed (financially or otherwise). The Village Hall continues to be a focal point in the village and helps to bring extra life and spirit to our community which I am sure many will appreciate.

As you will no doubt be aware, the Village Hall is currently closed and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. It will re-open as soon as considered appropriate (and taking account of government guidelines). However, even with the Village Hall closed, the spirit of the community is very much alive and we are delighted that so many of you are keeping in contact (...from a distance) and trying to help each other/the wider community.

Hopefully you will find the update useful and if you have any questions in respect of this, or indeed in respect of the Village Hall more generally, please do speak to one of the committee or email tynninghamevillagehall@gmail.com.

2. Village Hall Committee

As a reminder, the Village Hall Committee currently consists of:

- David Clark (Chair)
- Barbara Schofield (Secretary)
- Tim Harper (Treasurer)
- Erica Wimbush
- Margaret Evans
- Jessica Chatters

Dave Wakefield takes responsibility for day to day operations of the Village Hall and special thanks must go to him for ensuring the smooth operation of the Village Hall over the last year.

As a Committee, we are also very grateful to the various other sub-committees/friends of the Village Hall who do so much in organising events and participating in these.

Sadly, Barbara has indicated that she wishes to step down from the committee after several years of stellar service and will do so once Village Hall life returns to normal and we can ensure a smooth handover. She will be greatly missed from the Committee.

If anyone else would like to join the Committee (or recommend a friend...) please do let us know.

3. Update

The last year has focussed largely on two areas: (1) community events; and (2) fundraising efforts.

However, before looking at progress with each of these areas I would note, for those not aware, that the website for the Village Hall has been transformed (for which special thanks go to Barbara). We believe this is much improved with there now being an online diary function to check hall availability and clearer information about the Village Hall more generally. If you have not already seen this, please do look when you have a moment (especially as the website currently contains useful information regarding local efforts relating to Covid-19): <https://tyninghamevillagehall.org.uk/>

Community Events

There have been so many wonderful events in the Village Hall in the last year including:

- Harvest Lunch
- Ceilidh
- Christmas wreath making
- Burns supper
- Pub nights
- Tea concerts

I know many of you have attended several of the events in the Village Hall and these continue to be well received and enjoyed by many in the village. As well as helping raise funds towards the refurbishment these have helped bring many people together (both in terms of organising and participating) and thanks must go to all involved. The addition of the tea concerts (led by Margaret Evans) have proved successful and are a welcome addition to the events calendar.

The key aim/purpose of the Village Hall (as a charity, and so our responsibility as trustees) is to foster community spirit and interaction, and I hope that we are achieving this through hosting such events.

Refurbishment fundraising

The other main focus over the last year has been to progress plans to upgrade the facilities in the Village Hall (and so encourage/facilitate wider use by the community). For those who have been in the Village Hall recently, you will see that not much has actually changed in the last year. However, rest assured that this certainly does not reflect the work that has been going on behind the scenes to help continue with our refurbishment plans for which much progress has been made.

One development of note is that secondary glazing was installed in the main hall in 2019 and this is already serving to reduce heat loss (and so heating costs). The fact that many will not have noticed this development is actually positive in that the secondary glazing it designed to be in-keeping and so not detract from the character of the main hall.

With regards fundraising, as was apparent at the AGM last year, fundraising in the current environment (even before coronavirus) has been tough, with factors such as Brexit and general economic concerns not helping as the number of funding options available to us appears to be constantly reducing. However, led by Erica Wimbush, several fundraising applications have been successful and in particular I am pleased to report that we have been successful in obtaining grants from:

- Be Green (£5,000 – towards LED lighting)
- ELC Community Intervention Fund (c. £4,800 towards secondary glazing)
- Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership (two grants totalling c £5,800)

Community events have also helped raise additional funds. In particular, a special thanks to all those at Tynninghame House for kindly selecting the Village Hall as the beneficiary of one of your annual Open Gardens Day last year. The day was such a success for the Village Hall, raising over £2,000 towards the refurbishment funds. This was a real community effort (led by Jessica Chatters) who rallied the village in baking and making the teas/cakes. Hopefully this is something which can be repeated.

More recently I am sure that many will have seen the wonderful painting of the village produced by Erica Wimbush. As well as appearing in the Village Hall noticeboard, several copies have been distributed with donations being made to the Village Hall in return. I am sure that this will prove useful for years to come in helping delivery drivers and visitors to the village too!

4. Finances

In light of the various successes noted above (as well as income from regular events and bookings), the finances of the Village Hall are looking positive this year. A copy of the latest accounts are attached.

With the benefit of the various fundraising efforts, we now feel in a position to start some further refurbishment works.

5. Looking forward

With the funds of the Village Hall now being in a much healthier position we have, subject to final costings and building consents (which, in the current environment may be delayed), provisionally instructed builders with view to:

- (i) refurbishment of the toilet facilities;
- (ii) completing secondary glazing in toilet and kitchen areas;
- (iii) putting in place a new cooker for the kitchen area; and

(iv) upgrade the lighting.

We will also continue fundraising efforts to complete other tasks (such as a full upgrade of the heating and freshen up of the kitchen and main hall).

As soon as possible, we obviously hope to also resume community events in the Village Hall (and hope to see as many of you as possible at these events).

6. Conclusion

I hope that you find the above update useful. Formal matters ordinarily covered at the AGM such as election of the Committee and approval of 2019 AGM minutes will be completed at the 2020 AGM once a suitable date is selected. If you have any questions/comments in the meantime please do let any of the Committee know.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Village Hall in whatever form. Hopefully it will not be long until we see the doors of the Village Hall open again and village life return to normal.

Thank you again for your continued support.

David Clark

Chair, Tynninghame Village Hall

29 April 2020