

REPORT FROM THE GRANGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

LEE ELLARD CHAIR 20TH JULY 2020

Again we have had another mixed year of highs and lows, and just as it seemed we had started to meet our targets and gel together as a committee, although as hard as we try it is very difficult to get new committee members that are willing to stay the course. we were stopped in our tracks by Covid-19.

We finished 2019/2020 with a smaller profit than the year before, but we did have a higher turnover. This gave us the ability to invest with new curtains for the Stage and refurbish the floor, this was helped by the amount of good ticket events we managed to host.

The Town Mayors are continuing to use the Grange Hall for fund raising functions, which is not only good for the Hall but good for the community, keeping everything local.

Our regular bookings were becoming excellent money makers, and at certain times it was found that we could not accommodate any new hirers as all our preferred time slots were filled .

We hosted the New Comedy Club which was a huge success, and had secured future bookings which have had to be put on hold. On a positive note due to the success of this event we upgraded the Tills in the Bar and installed a card machine making it easier for the bar staff to take payment and orders quickly and efficiently.

Covid-19 presented us with an opportunity to give the Hall a much needed face lift. It has had an internal repaint, carpets cleaned, new signage, planting and a general overhaul, we are also investing heavily in a new lighting system, and as soon as we are able to re-open, it will be fresh, inviting and welcoming. We will be looking to re-roof the Hall in the future.

We were able to put our Bar staff and Caretaker on furlough which means we may have retained them for when we reopen. Our very obliging cleaner has been moved onto a Town Council contract, with new hours, and has admirably taken on the responsibility that goes with all the extra cleaning and sanitizing that Covid -19 brings.

The Future of the Grange Hall has many challenges ahead, especially with the social distancing and keeping within the government guide lines. The type of event that is allowed when we reopen has brought its own problems, as the numbers have to be reduced due to social distancing, and our clients have to decide whether it would be viable for them - there is also the risk assessment to be addressed, but it just another corner and I am sure we, as a team, can turn it without to many hurdles.

I would like to thank the Committee members, the Bar Manager and staff, our caretaker Louise and also John Gwillam for all his work in the background and for all their continued support to the Grange Hall. The Hall has a new Finance Officer so I would like to officially welcome Lauren too.

Also, I have to take this opportunity to say thanks and congratulations to Carole for her never-ending commitment to The Grange Hall as our administrator, and her new position as Deputy Town Clerk

Lee Ellard Chair Grange Hall

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