

## LEE ELLARD CHAIR 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

The report for this year is as mixed as last year. Since my last report, we have been through the first lockdown in March 2020 to an extremely limited reopening in June 2020. As part of the Community leisure industry, we were allowed extraordinarily little scope with the type of groups that could return back onto the premises, but we continued to follow all guidelines and our caretaker worked extremely hard to make sure the Hall was kept clean and sanitized.

We again faced a second lockdown in December until April 2021. We are now looking forward to a full reopening all going well on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Our Bar staff have been on furlough since March 2020 and we have appreciated Government grants to help retain them. We are hoping to be able to take all our staff off furlough at the end of August as we shall be starting to see our parties using the full hall with the bar and our first wedding booking since the pandemic. We are hoping that this will be the start of us getting back on track towards a full bookings schedule and the Grange Hall 'earning its keep'.

Whilst closed, we took the opportunity to upgrade our stage lighting, making it more attractive to hire for musical performances and any theatre styles plays or pantomimes.

We are also in the process of upgrading our beer pumps and cellar facilities which should give us cooler beers and lagers in the summer; this should be ready in time for our first party booking at the beginning of September.

Our next upgrade is a necessity as the Fire doors are not working correctly; as it is a capital expenditure SDC have agreed to contribute 50% towards the cost.

I would like to thank all members of the committee for their full commitment, Lauren our Finance Officer and Carole again for her dedication to the Grange Hall.