**Chairman’s Report at the West Wratting Village Hall Management Committee AGM 2020**

This has been an extraordinary year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic which has affected all our lives. Because of this the village hall has been closed from mid-March to September, and again from 5 November to 3 December, some 7 months in all. Despite this much has happened.

Following closure the leaders of our various exercise classes were forced to re-locate their sessions outdoors and then became well-established on-line (Zoom).During the summer government Retail and Hospitality Grants of £10,000 were made to village halls to compensate for the inevitable loss of income that would result from closure.

As a result we were able to proceed with our planned improvements. A&B Glass fitted the two new double-glazed windows on the north aspect of the hall, one of these functioning also as an escape exit. They also repaired the kitchen door and fitted a lock more suitable for an emergency exit.

John Horsfield has repainted the interior of the main hall, the stage, and the front porch.

Cambridge Alarms installed a fire-alarm sounder and flashing light in the toilet block.

MGP Carpentry supplied and fitted new, light-weight folding doors, separating the committee room and hall.

I’ll remind you all that a major floor treatment was completed last December, after my last AGM report, all adding up to an impressive range of improvements achieved in the last twelve months.

On the outside, we are again grateful to our near neighbours for continuing to keep grass and hedges under control, and the paths have been jet-washed, so are no longer hazardous in wet weather.

We were keen to see live classes resumed when new government guidelines permitted us to re-open the hall in September, and Anne Catchpole kindly provided us with the necessary Risk Assessment document. We followed government guidelines to enable a “COVID-secure” environment. We are grateful to Jenny Knowelden for adjusting her cleaning regime as necessary.

We recognised that spacing requirements could lead to reduced class numbers, thus making them uneconomic for some class leaders. We therefore capitalised on our improved financial circumstances and made the hall available free of charge to our regular class users, until the end of the calendar year.

Subsequently, we saw the return of Tai Chi and some Fitness sessions but extra spacing requirements made a return to FitSteps impractical. Sadly it has not yet been possible to reinstate the Saturday Café and other social events.

On the administrative side, we were sad to see the departure of our Hon. Sec. Anne Catchpole in September, after eight years of excellent service to the committee. COVID-19 meant that Anne had to reschedule some of her FitSteps classes, directly clashing with our meetings programme.

We had two normal meetings at the start of the year, cancelled two in the summer because of the pandemic, and the last two of the year have been online meetings via Zoom.

I thank the entire committee for their solid support and decision making during the past year. Maggie Attewell and Mick Lock have again kept bookings and financial accounting on an even keel, Diana Edwards has ensured that all our technical servicing and inspections were carried out in a timely manner. She and Nigel Heath have produced excellent minutes when needed to stand in. Again, I thank you all for your inputs and we will wait and see what the New Year brings.

**Mike Rowland,**

**Chairman, West Wratting Village Hall Management Committee**