



Sunnyside Hall

Rusthall Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8RA

Company No: 4774580

Registered Charity No: 1101737

Trustees' Annual Report 2022

As the country emerged gradually from the covid pandemic the Trustees of the Sunnyside Hall have been active in making sure the hall thrives and moves forward from the impact of lockdown and all of the problems it presented. As restrictions were gradually lifted the trustees worked to ensure the hall users including the established groups and clubs were able to begin activities with new routines and facilities in place to help provide a covid safe environment for their safety and security.

The popularity of the hall has grown with bookings recovering quickly and a return to pre-Covid levels of hire income. Demand for the hall set to increase with children's parties in particular, especially with space inside and outside for hired play equipment such as bouncy castles.

The Trustees also hope to introduce capacity for other regular groups such as a planned monthly repair cafe which will provide a general repair service for household items for the local community, it is hoped this will also help provide a solution for less waste and more savings in this period of high cost of living and inflation.

The children's pre-school group is back in residence with regular hours throughout the week.

The hall also provides a valued base for the Rusthall scout group including scouts, cub scouts and beaver scouts.

Other groups include the successful and popular Community Cinema meeting once a fortnight with a full programme of top box office films thought the year, this is a very well supported group with good publicity in printed and online programme form. This self-funding charity is equipped with state-of-the-art projection and sound systems providing a high-quality cinema experience.

For the energetic, Zumba and dance fitness groups meet every week and a self-funded table tennis group meet twice a week and has been so well supported that a 4th professional table tennis table has recently been purchased to fulfil the demand.

The Trustees have also successfully applied to Sport England for a grant to purchase a full-sized badminton mat which is hoped to be in use in late 2022 for games at the hall.

During the lockdown period Sunnyside Hall received welcome support from the local council Covid grant fund and has been able to use funds to introduce some measures to improve the comfort of users and minimise potential problems with air quality especially with sporting activities and larger audiences using the hall such as the Community Cinema.

As a covid precaution for now and for the future, it is widely recommended to improve ventilation in public areas. To achieve this for the Hall, four electronically controlled high-

capacity extract/intake fans were installed to achieve an efficient change of air, important when larger groups are meeting.

With the growth and popularity of the hall activities the Trustees will seek planning permission for an extension to the rear elevation of the hall for secure storage of equipment and furniture currently stored in temporary sheds.

Finance has been a concern especially as the hall energy costs have doubled over the past year. Bookings and income are reasonably healthy: we hosted 61 weekend parties this year, but the trustees have been keen to look at ways to mitigate the rising costs of energy.

One clear solution to this is in the area of renewable solar energy. The trustees will look at the various solar panel options available including systems with battery storage and systems that feed into the grid for extra savings.

Finally, the Trustees were pleased with part funding from the British Heart Foundation to install a defibrillator in the previous year, and note that this was passed on to emergency callers to 999 on 4 occasions. A clear sign that this is of value to the community.