

Hall Reopened in May 2021, albeit with restrictions on usage and several revised Risk Assessments.

As expected, bookings have been generally slow to pick up, but it is good to welcome back our regular hirers, the Parish Council and the WI. We also now have a weekly Yoga class that runs on a Monday evening.

Sadly, during the last 12 months we have had to say goodbye to some hardworking long standing committee members. Sandra Dodd, Barry Treves and Andy Vanderhook. Their contributions to the hall have been really important over many years.

Andy particularly is missed by us all. He served as Parish Hall Secretary for 14 years and always produced prompt accurate minutes and records, so essential to any committee. His belief in the importance of supporting local community resources, like the Parish Hall, meant he had a firm commitment to maintaining a viable active hall in Neen Savage, available for present and future generations. To this end he was always willing to get involved with events and plans as well as day to day maintenance.

Fortunately, Ros Haines, an existing committee member, was happy to volunteer as our new Secretary.

We also welcome Catherine Evans, who joins us as WI representative.

However, we still have a couple of vacancies on the hall committee and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join us and contribute to the Neen Savage community in a practical way.

During the year we have run 2 Parish events.

Due to Covid restrictions, the original July date for the Scarecrow convention had to be changed, but this proved OK, when we had a very successful Annual Fete and Scarecrow convention in August.

There was a great turnout and we decided to alter the location of the stalls to round the back of the hall and also site the Cleobury Brass Band against the back hedge, which seemed well received by everyone.

During the afternoon the new red bench in memory of Irene Maxwell was unveiled and is now at the front of the hall alongside the red Phone box.

In December we had a successful outdoor Christmas event for all the family. We were fortunate to obtain the services of Father Christmas, who brought gifts for all the children. There were Christmas donkeys in attendance and we provided the ubiquitous Mulled wine and Mince Pies, as well as Roasted Chestnuts and Samosas. Fortunately the weather was on our side.

In the last year, we have fitted a Keysafe to allow easier access for users. It is proving very successful. There are new Disclaimer signs in the Car Park.

We had intended to improve the roadside boundary last winter, by removing the conifers by the gate, 2 of the lime trees, replanting the poor parts of the hedge and planting a new hedge by the gateway where the conifers are now. The improvements will make the hedge a better barrier, improve the environmental quality of the boundary, allow the remaining trees to thrive and mature, and improve the long term health of the hedge. An environmental consultant was hired to give us a report particularly on the impact of the changes for bats and other wildlife. He wrote a positive report on our plans.

Unfortunately our plans have had to be rescheduled for next winter, because we had to seek legal advice following a threatening solicitors letter from the neighbours. We believe that this has now been settled and we will do the job in the autumn/winter.

We are also looking at building a small extension on the back of the hall, to be a store room for tables and chairs, to free up the space in the main hall.

Upcoming

A Bring and Share Lunch on July 5th to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Please contact Catherine Evans if you are hoping to attend. A Glass of Fizz will be offered to everyone to toast the Queen.

This year's Scarecrow Convention and Annual Garden Party will be on July 16th. Please see Vital Link for details. We will continue the Jubilee theme and ask for Royal Scarecrows in attendance please. The band is booked and any offers of help would be gratefully received.

Many thanks to all the committee members, and their families, for all their hard work and contributions.

Thanks to all who came to the June Outside work Party - with a good turnout we achieve a lot in a couple of hours. (The date for this year is July 9th). A particular mention to Arthur Ratcliff for cutting the grass all season and offering his help as general handyman, and Andrew Pearce for siding up the hedge for us.