

# The Badlesmere Lees and Hall Committee



Badlesmere....on the way to Ashford 1927

## Chairman's Report for the AGM of The Badlesmere Lees and Hall Committee, 11 May 2021.

The AGM scheduled for 11 May 2021 was cancelled because the form it would have to take to comply with the lock down regulations due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic allows a maximum of 20 people in the hall, and requires the 'rule of 6' to be obeyed and the wearing of masks. Although this was possible it was felt that for a second year the AGM should be cancelled and the Chairman's report be published on the website (as it would anyway). If anyone wishes to raise anything stemming from this report or the actions of the committee in the past year, please get in touch with the Chairman, or any member of the committee, and we will answer all queries as best we can. This report covers the period between the AGMs whereas the financial summary is for the calendar year 2020.

The committee. The management committee were Ian Earl (chairman and Hall Manager), Sue Earl (secretary), Rick Blackman (treasurer), and members: Dave Austin (Parish Councillor), Katie Bennett, Steve Burt, Fred Gregory, Charlie Kirby, Ben Pullen and Tom Sisley. Gareth Fulton joined the committee in August. In addition, Lorraine Blackman ran the 100 Club. This committee will remain in place until the AGM in 2022.

Summary. Since the last AGM the village hall has hardly been used as the year (from May) started in lockdown and ended in a second lockdown. Income from hiring was negligible but government grants did more than offset this and also paid for the changes and equipment needed to make the hall 'covid secure' for when it re-opened (briefly) in August. Planned fund-raising events – our second 10k Run and the annual Wine and Wisdom – also had to be cancelled, as was the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day.

Governance and administration. A Reserves Policy and a Safe-guarding Policy have been written and adopted. Transfers in line with the former did not take place until 2021 so do not appear in the accounts summary below. Also at the beginning of 2021 a current account and a business reserve account in the name of Badlesmere Parish Hall were opened at the NatWest Bank. This allows for the separation of the Village Hall from the Lees Preservation Committee. (The accounts, originally separate, were combined in 2003 as a step to simplify the accounting. However, this meant that a charity, complete with Trust Deed, was combined with a local society, which, although existing for the benefit of villagers and visitors alike, maintained primarily what was, and still is, essentially private property.)

The accounts. Total expenditure for 2020 was £7987.10. Income exceeded expenditure by £5704.18. The balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 were: £14788.78 for the current account and £3858.80 for the business reserve account. (The actual bank balances differ from this only due to cheques yet to be presented.) These balances are very healthy because the hall repairs that were carried out in March/April cost much less than expected and from the receipt of the grants noted above. Lockdown, however, has continued, and as of May 2021, re-opening is not expected until June and could be delayed. A full summary of the accounts (normally issued to whoever attends the AGM) will be posted with this report to the website. They do allow the reader to separate the transactions pertaining to the hall from those of the preservation committee. In future years they will be presented in separate documents.

Maintenance of the village hall. Following the repairs and painting of the exterior of the hall, further work was required to solve dampness and the growth of mould on the kitchen ceiling. A third under-stage storage trolley has been constructed, and the shelves for the storage of gazebos in the side room modified. Outside, new PIR-activated LED floodlights have been installed.

The lees and tracks. The lees was mowed only four times in 2020 (a very dry summer) at a cost of £550. With the A251 road closed opposite South View for two weeks due to repairs to the gas main, the lees was used by some drivers as a means of bypassing the closure despite the positioning of barriers and cones. Luckily it was the height of summer and the land dry and firm. The surface of the North track was reworked with another purchase of Type 1 material, while the South track was maintained using the existing stock of planings. For the first time in many years, repairs to the laybys were undertaken. Financing this, the 100 Club brought in just under £500 and so with the Wine and Wisdom cancelled outgoings exceeded income.

2021. This year is already being dominated by the continuing lockdown. Income from hall bookings and events will be seriously curtailed. However, further grants were offered and duly applied for. Being a small hall in terms of hirings and functions, the flat-rate (banded) grant system has worked to our advantage. Our funds are such that we can now prioritise and action the many improvements we have for so long wanted to make.

Ian Earl  
Chairman, Badlesmere Lees and Hall Committee