**TYSOE VILLAGE HALL**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT FOR 2021**

The year has proved to be a frustrating one, over-shadowed by the ongoing pandemic and associated restrictions which, not only has compromised the use of the hall, but has also had a detrimental effect on people wishing to gather in any numbers. The frustration, of course, is that we have a tremendous asset being used for 60% less activity and enjoyment for the village, but, with the acute danger of Covid seemingly passed, we can only hope for normality to resume in the next year.

Despite this, it is good to see that our “trading” position remained in profit and, furthermore, we have been fortunate to receive generous Covid grant funding, which has given us a reassuring financial cushion.

Perhaps even more frustrating has been the problem with the floor. First noticed in May, as a small bulge, it has taken 10 months for insurers to agree that there’s a serious damp problem beneath and meanwhile we still await a starting date for rectifying it. We can only apologise to users, particularly the Bowls Club, for the ongoing and still uncertain situation.

We were sad to see Steve Randall stepping down (understandably) from his job as caretaker, though he remains firmly on the Committee as Secretary. James Weston took up the cleaner/caretaker post in the Autumn and has adapted well to the task.

Other than mundane repairs, the one improvement we have made is a new stage backdrop curtain system.

As always, I remain extremely grateful to the Committee for its efforts throughout a difficult year, one in which, for the second year running, we have, seemingly, been merely treading water.

Percy Sewell

22nd March 2022.

**N.B. Update on the floor.**

**The loss adjusters, Crawford & Company, who are handling the claim, finally sent their contractors (part of the Crawford group) in on April 11th. They removed the floor, exposing the old floor underneath and further damage. Their appointed damp specialist surveyor visited the site, verbally informing me that the old floor would have to be removed to ascertain the full extent of the damage and the source of the water problem. Since then, they have not returned and the hall has been left in an unusable and dangerous state.**

**The contractors are waiting for the loss adjuster to agree to the further work. The loss adjuster is waiting for the estimate from the contractors, who are waiting the report from the survey. It is extremely regrettable that the insurers have appointed Crawford & Co. to handle this claim: they have proved to be disastrous and I have written a formal complaint to the Insurance Ombudsman. We can only wait.**