**Memorial Hall Annual Report. July 2021 - August 2022 12th September 2022**

**Note of Change of Annual General Meeting**

Before I start this report, I wish to announce that we will be changing the date of our annual meeting from September to April to allow us to link our financial year in with our reporting year and allow us to reporting on a calendar year from January to December, rather than the current situation of July to August. Consequently, this report is an interim report, knowing that a full report would occur in six months’ time.

**Overall Picture**

The first part of 2022 is the first six month where the hall has operated without significant COVID restrictions and it is reflected in both a greater use of the hall, a return to key events staged in the hall during 2022 and an improving financial position from income earned by the hall through events, the community bar and hall hirings.

If anything, the relaxation of COVID regulations has actually increased the Hall's relevance as a community hub and this year has seen activities of all types happening in the hall catering for every aspect of Mayfield’s village community as well as a continuation and growth of ‘The Mayfield Arms’, our community bar that sits at the heart of both our Memorial Hall community of users and the wider village community.

As we write this report, the hall is in the middle of its centenary year celebrating 100 years since it first opened its doors in 1922. A number of events have already taken place in the hall as part of this celebration with more to come before the year is ended. An initial report on activity year to date is included below and a full report will be made available at the next AGM in April 2023.

**Operating Model.**

We continue to operate a model as a small local charity that falls into two areas.

**1. Hall Rentals**. We continue to adopt a cost neutral model of renting the hall out to local groups, charities and individuals, i.e. an operating model where the costs equal the rental. The hall makes no surplus on such hires and tries not to make a loss. Hall rentals were low in 2021 due to COVID but have started to return to a normal level in the first part of 2022. The hall is now used on almost every day of the week and is once more a popular place for hire for parties of all types, including most recently a wedding. There has been no increases in the charge for use of a hall for some years and the committee will carefully look at increased energy costs in the following months to consider whether prices need to be increased from January 2023 onwards.

**2. Our Community Bar - Our Community Hub**. Known to one and all as ‘The Mayfield Arms’, our community bar continues to be the generator of income for the Hall and without it and the activities it undertakes, the Hall simply could not exist as a going concern. Run by volunteers from the Hall committee and employing local people as required for activities and events, the bar is available for hire with events, and hosts on behalf of the hall, dances, concerts and various activities that makes it the beating heart of the community hub that the Memorial Hall has become for Mayfield. This year it's aim of trying to open every Sunday in the year for the benefit of the whole community has proved to be a great success and it remains the one place in the village where people can come and sit and talk, bring their children or dogs or both and enjoy the pleasure of company without the commercial pressure to spend sums of money. It’s success can be judged by the increased growth of the Sunday Club where for small annual fee people can buy drink at reduced prices; a real benefit when drinks are already almost double the price in surrounding commercial premises. All surpluses generated by bar sales go directly to the hall and are used to maintain the hall, invest in further community events and crucially fund our extensive refurbishment programme. My sincere thanks to all who give their time and talents so selflessly, to directly benefit our community.

**Groups / Activities / Events / Undertaken**.

All members of the community use the hall from 9 years and under to 90 years and over as represented in groups from the Scouts to the Senior Social Club. Sports are covered from indoor bowling which has been taking place at the hall for many years through to Darts that has now grown into multiple teams winning many of the trophies in the local darts league. Fitness at the hall is there for all, from line dancing through to Ballet and Pilates offering something for everyone. Mayfield Country Music Club is based at the hall with multiple events a year on a Saturday night. We are also used by art and photography groups as well as crafting groups and U3A groups as well as being the home of car boot sales and as a polling station in elections both local and national.

The local heritage group moved to the hall in 2022 for their meetings and we now store their archives – a much valued repository of Mayfield history.

A whole range of entertainment is taking place at the hall from tribute bands through to folk groups through to full dance orchestras. In particular Ness Edge who has recently joined the committee has provided a number of pop and rock bands that have proved to be popular and we hope to encourage local talent to also take part in entertainment at the hall. Such concerts are used to raise money for a variety of causes and charities and the Hall has been happy to help out with donations of our own, from waiving the charge for the venue through to donating money raised from raffles etc.

**Beer Festival** By far the largest event undertaken is our annual beer festival, this year returned to its summer slot with generous sponsorship from local companies, people and organisations. For our centenary beer festival, we chose to run it on the Platinum Jubilee weekend in June and the beer festival proved to be very focus and centre of Mayfield’s jubilee celebrations with a street party barbeque on the Saturday afternoon and a family dance on Saturday evening. As in previous years it was very well attended across its three days. All monies raised, over £5000 was used to maintain the hall and continue our refurbishment programme.

Overall, the hall is used by groups, or hosts an event, on average 5 days a week and the community bar is used on average 2.5 times a week. It is true to say the Memorial Hall is a real community centre for all our village and surrounding area.

**Charitable events/ Donations made.** Many of the events the hall hosts or undertakes itself are charitable events raising much needed funds for local groups and societies or raising funds for charitable causes. The Memorial Hall is proud to sponsor and help other local groups and fundraising activity in the village and works closely with MARNA and the MRA on Fundraising and projects including the long awaited and much needed playground for Mayfield. This year Mayfield Memorial Hall has also worked closely with Mayfield football club to help raise money for them and is the home of the football club, where celebrations are undertaken, trophies held and displayed and fundraising activity undertaken. Raising money making donations and helping other groups with a donation of hall fees for events has also been a key part of our own 100 years centenary celebrations covered in the next section

**Centenary Celebrations.** The Memorial Hall celebrated 100 years of service to Mayfield in 2022, 100 years since it first opened the doors in 1922. The hall committee have organised a number of activities to commemorate this celebration taking place throughout the year with more still to come and a full report of our centenary year will be given at the next AGM, as it continues until the end of December 2022. Events have been varied ranging from a centenary dance, a specially commissioned remembrance sculpture, limited edition beer and beer glass amongst many others.

However, a key part of our centenary has been in giving back to the community by existing allowing groups who use the hall to have the opportunity of hiring the hall at no cost to them in order to raise funds for their own group or gain new members. There has been a mixed response to this with some groups actually taking part such as line dancing, country western club and the ballet group, but others have found it difficult to organise such events themselves. However, it has allowed the hall in its centenary year to give something back to the community at a level it previously has not been able to do.

**Refurbishment programme.**  With a hall this size and of this age there is always refurbishment and repair needed. A significant amount of refurbishment took place in 2021 and the programme continued again in 2022. Year to date we have;

* Refurbished the men's toilets and accessible toilet to a modern high standard
* Installed new stage curtains
* Installed new blinds in the main hall
* Installed personalised memorial hall covers for the four dart boards
* Installed new LED lights in the bar area and side area of the main hall
* Purchased new equipment for the bar including ice maker and chill cabinets
* Refurbished all the hall tables updating Formica tops to real wood

Further refurbishment of the committee room and corridors will take place before the end of the calendar year.

**Finally** I must commend the Hall Committee. None of what I have reported today would have, or could have happened without this talented and committed group of individuals - plus of course our dedicated caretaker Alf Burton. During the year Simon Sowter stepped down from the committee after a number of excellent years’ service as Vice Chairman and Ness Edge joined. The actions, activities and outcomes within this report is down to this group of individuals and their friends, colleagues, neighbours and family members who have been persuaded to volunteer, like themselves, their talents, skills and time to this Memorial Hall. I thank them all for the work they have done in ensuring the Memorial Hall remains a vibrant resource at the very heart of our community.

Thank you,

Stephen Dunn. Chair

**Report of the Treasurer 2022 AGM**

In 2021 income from room hire remained low due to the pandemic. (2021**:£2668;** 2020**:£2415**; 2019**:£9512**). Bar takings were significantly higher in 2021 compared to the previous year but lagged behind those of 2019 by around £7000. This was covered by Covid grants received in 2021 of £16864.

Gas charges are understated by around £1900 due to problems with invoicing by Eon. This was paid in 2022.

Profit for the year of £11907 was just below pre-pandemic levels largely due to our extensive refurbishment programme.

£

Fire doors 2190

Decorating Hall 1200

J Burford 1031

Toilets 4272

Boiler 1200

Blinds 328

Others 1004

**Total 11225**

During 2021 we donated £2709 plus £2000 raised from the auction paid over in 2022. This was made up of:

£

MRA 400

Darts 204

Prostate Cancer 1900

Breast Cancer 2000

Free Room Hire 205

**Total 4709**

Cash and Bank balances at the end of 2021 remain healthy at £57000. This includes £10,000 set aside into a building fund.

**2022**

Income from room hire should achieve pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year. Bar income in 2022 is approximately £9000 higher than the similar period in 2019 (Beer Festival income included in both).

We have incurred refurbishment costs of around £7000 for upgrading the men’s toilets and lighting in the hall.

Cash and bank balances remain healthy at the £57000 level.

Sandra Terry Treasurer