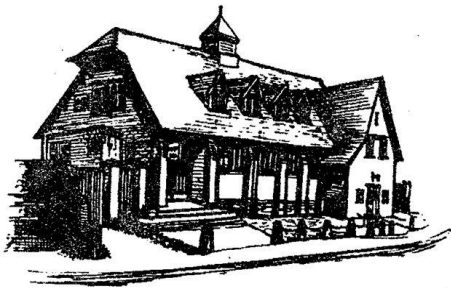




Spring 2021



# Alvechurch Village Hall Newsletter

## Work continues.....

Although we haven't been able to welcome back hall users yet this year, work has continued to make improvements to the hall and to keep it well maintained.

Those local to the village, have probably noticed the new tarmac to the side of the hall and the new bike stands. These improvements not only benefit hall users, but also the community of Alvechurch. Members of the hall's committee; Jan Brice, Annette English and Shelia Evans worked hard in the planning and execution of this project.

Work has started on installing a PA system at the hall by members of the Amdrams group, John Morrison and Brian Watkiss. All hall users will benefit from being able to use the system. This will be a great addition to the facilities we have at the hall.

Maura (the Hall's Housekeeper), has continued to keep the hall fresh and clean, including spring cleaning jobs, stock level checks, as well as carrying out regular security checks.

Other work that has been carried out include a new hot water boiler installed in the main hall kitchen, a few plumbing issues have been resolved and a repair to the main hall floor.

Final areas of the hall are scheduled to be painted later this month.

A big thank you to everyone for their hard work and commitment to the hall.



## Information for our Regular Groups

Following on from the government's road map, it's great news that we'll be able to welcome back some of our regular user groups soon. If you haven't already done so, can you please let me know if you have a date in mind, that you think you'll be able to return to the hall.

The committee have decided to continue with the **50% discount** on hire fees for our regular users, for the first three months from when groups can return back to the hall. We hope this will help support the groups and enable them to still viably run, even if there is a decrease in numbers attending or if additional sessions are required for social distancing.

Whilst the hall is closed it's a good opportunity for storage areas to be tidied up. I'm currently working through contacting groups that store items at the hall, asking if they would to access the hall to do this. If I haven't contacted you yet and you'd like to have a tidy up of your stored items, please let me know. Later in the year, I'll be asking groups for an inventory of items stored.





## An Introduction to Keith

At the end of last year Keith kindly offered to take on some maintenance work at the hall. Keith is pictured opposite.



Keith has already completed a number of tasks at the hall to include plumbing work (mentioned above), and the installation of a new flush system in the gents' toilets, as well as some internal and external painting, and general repairs. On Keith's 'to do' list is repairing and repainting the eaves at the hall, painting the garage doors and other repair jobs that frequently occur at the hall.

Keith is a retired Fire Officer. Before joining the Fire Service, he worked as an Electrician on building sites and in general maintenance. Keith has lived in Alvechurch for almost 30 years, with his wife Jude (the Hall's Secretary). He has had several hobbies over the years such as playing melodeon for local Morris sides and bands. More recently, Keith has taken up stained glass work, an example of which can be seen in the kitchen door at the Village Hall.

**Thank you, Keith for your time and expertise.**



Some extremely sad news, a member of the Amdrams group and Pumpkin Festival Committee, Sarah Morrison sadly passed away in December, at just 52 years old. The following is a tribute written by Hazel Watkiss, a close friend of Sarah's and a fellow Amdram and Pumpkin Festival Committee member:

*Sarah was a very active member of the drama group, in the village hall for 20 years! During this time, she performed on the stage, directed, helped with set design and build. She also did costumes and props before finally running the lighting and sound.*

*Sarah also acted as Chairman and Secretary of the committee. She will be sadly missed by us all especially her laugh coming from the lighting box! Sarah was also on the Pumpkin Festival Committee where we saw her organising skills come into action. You always saw her with her camera ready to record the occasion.*

*It is very fitting that her parents are donating curtains to the hall in her memory. She always called the village hall her second home!! Sarah will be so sadly missed by all her friends and everyone who knew her.*

As Hazel mentioned above, Sarah's parents have kindly offered to donate money to purchase new curtains for the hall in Sarah's memory. A big thank you to them for such a generous offer. They are in all our thoughts during this difficult time.

