

# North Northumberland Village Halls Consortium

## Annual Report April 2019 - March 2020

### Membership

The membership of the Consortium continues to grow and we ended the year with a record 73 paid-up members. We were pleased to welcome four new members: Berwick URC at Spittal, Holy Island Village hall, New Hartley Memorial hall and Glendale Hall/Wooler Warm Hub.

### Meetings and speakers

During the year we had the following topics and speakers at Consortium meetings which were all well attended.

Month	Topic	Speaker(s)	Venue
June 2019	Heritage Project proposals	Julia Plinston	Longhoughton Comm & Sports
October 2019	Hall Improvements	Discussion & Louise Currie	Jubilee hall, Newton-on-the-Moor
March 2020	Village hall Heritage Project	Julia Plinston	Bowsden Vill hall

### Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)

This service was introduced to members about 9 years ago primarily to encourage rural village halls to have their electrical appliances regularly inspected and tested. This year 47 members chose to use the scheme, which tested over 1400 appliances. Our smallest hall had 3 items and our largest over 180. We now have 11 trained volunteer testers, all recruited from our members, and they provide a highly proficient and excellent value service.

### Suppliers Survey

This year, as a result of a suggestion at a meeting, we decided to compile list of useful trades and suppliers and invited members to put forward names. We sought everything from legal services, painting & decorating, plumbers, builders and electricians. If members had been satisfied with the quality & delivery of the work they were encouraged to submit contact details but neither they, not NNVHC, would be endorsing or recommending any particular supplier listed and would not be liable for any loss resulting from choosing a particular supplier. Its aim was to save time for those managing improvements by sharing our collective experiences. The list is available on our website and we encourage members to update it.

### Training

The training offer for 2019-20 was disappointing. For the first time in several years we were unable to offer courses. This was mainly due the COID -19 outbreak in the early spring of 2020 when we planned to have them.

### Finance

See accompanying report from our Treasurer.