

PRISTON VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Although the Government Covid-19 roadmap published on 22 February identifies that village halls can legally open from 12 April, in practice this is only for a very limited range of activities: eg. childcare; healthcare (including chiropody); wakes, weddings & receptions (up to 15 people). Gyms can only open for individual use, which sadly rules out exercise classes in the hall for the time being. However, the election for the West of England Mayor and Avon & Somerset Police Commissioner **will** be taking place in the hall on 6 May.

From **17 May** (assuming Govt. roadmap dates do not change) indoor exercise classes and community cafés will again be legally permitted – so we are pleased to report that the Saturday Café is planning to restart from 22 May (more details will be available in the May *Link*). Indoor events will be subject to the “rule of 6”. This means that multiple groups of 6 (with each group socially-distanced) are permitted, up to the total Covid-safe capacity of the hall (currently set at 30). Exercise classes will continue to be limited to 8 persons + leader - we are contacting the organisers of the exercise classes in the VH to understand their plans for restarting and will provide an update in the May *Link*. The limit for wakes, weddings and receptions increases to 30 people. Private parties are still not permitted. Outdoor gatherings will be limited to 30 people.

Prior to the latest restrictions, the Village Hall Committee put in place a number of measures to ensure activities in the hall would be conducted on a Covid-safe basis eg additional signs including QR codes for Track & Trace, sanitiser stations, a requirement for Covid-19 risk assessments from all event organisers, masks to be worn except for exempt activities and individuals. These measures will need to remain in place until we are advised they are no longer required.

From **21 June** the Government aims to lift all legal limits on social contact. It will publish guidance on how to manage the remaining Covid-19 risks. Private parties will again be permitted. At this point the Village Hall Committee will review the latest Government guidance to determine what measures need to continue in place.

We hope that as restrictions ease over the coming weeks and months, we will once again all be able to benefit from the Village Hall. Do look out for announcements from event organisers as activities resume.

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee.

29 March 2021