

Berwickshire Village Halls

Update 4: Reopening of Village Halls

Latest news

Following the rise in COVID-19 infection levels, the government has introduced temporary measures in the hospitality sector that are scheduled to end on 26 October. While these measures are not directed at village halls, they do, together with previous restrictions on social gatherings, underline concern about spread of the virus.

As such, please take a cautious approach when hiring out your hall; and in particular, ensure that users are fully aware of the safety precautions you have put in place. The following information outlines what activities are currently allowed.

Social gatherings

Although you should not meet anyone from outside of your household inside your own home, it is still possible to meet with one other household socially in a public place such as a café, pub or restaurant (subject to existing rules and the new temporary restrictions).

As such, an event like a coffee morning could still go ahead provided it met the very strict mandatory rules for the hospitality sector. Please see our separate guidance on the Bavs website.

Non-sporting gatherings and events

Public gatherings, inside or outside, are still prohibited unless they are for specified reasons. Guidance on the Government's website has changed so you should allow only the following type of event:

- provision of childcare, education or training
- parent and toddler/baby groups (please see [organised activities for children](#)) but not soft play.
- work events, or for the provision of voluntary or charitable services - but individuals should try to minimise all meetings and other work gatherings.
- events to access public services
- organised exercise (e.g. yoga, pilates)
- organised activities, indoor or outdoor, for those aged under 18 (e.g. scouts or brownies) but not soft play.

It would also be permissible to use a hall in order to escape from harm, to provide emergency or medical assistance or for blood donation.

Indoor sports

Indoor contact sport is not allowed (for anyone aged 12 or over). Non-contact sports, such as badminton, can take place must follow the guidance produced by their Scottish Governing Body. Sport Scotland has published operational guidance on getting facilities fit for sport. There are specific documents for Gyms and for Sports Courts. Please see the [Sport Scotland website](#).

Performing arts

Non-professional musicians can only play or sing outdoors; and are subject to the two household six person limits. You should therefore not allow any amateur music groups to use your hall. However, professional musicians can play or sing in groups indoors following a comprehensive risk assessment and subject to the guidance set out in [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for the performing arts and venues sector](#).

While live performances are not yet permitted, it is possible for amateur drama groups to restart rehearsals by following this same guidance for performing arts. However, in practice this may prove beyond most halls capability as the guidance has been written with theatres in mind, and all the facilities that accompany a professional production.

Dance studios can reopen subject to the Government guidance set out in [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance on Sport and Leisure facilities](#). You could therefore allow a dance group to train provided it met the two-metre physical distancing rules and enhanced hygiene rules set out in the guidance.

Notes

1. Much of this information is taken from the Scottish Government's rules on [staying safe and protecting others](#) (updated 9 October 2020 under Phase 3 of the Route Map): In all cases, physical distancing, hand washing and surface cleaning still applies; and depending upon the activity face coverings will also be required all or some of the time. Some activities are subject to additional guidelines.
2. There are a number of useful posters and guidance documents on the Bavs [village Halls website page](#).
3. As all guidance is subject to change as the country responds to the pandemic, you are advised to check regularly with the Scottish Government website for the most up to date information: [Coronavirus in Scotland](#).