

Victoria Hall

Charity reg. 301961

Annual Report and Accounts

2014



The Hall continues to fulfil an important role in the life of the community and provides a popular and much used venue for a wide range of social, educational and recreational activities.

The year was dominated by flooding, which occurred in February, with the hall unable to be used for 10 days and the car park suffering long-term damage. Despite the loss of income and the additional expenditure incurred as a result of the floods, the overall financial position improved very considerably with the outstanding loan from 2013 re-paid and the year ending with a small balance in the bank.

The four garages were let at the beginning of the year to one tenant for the storage of classic cars; a use which has proved compatible with hall users' parking needs. Two major improvements were achieved: the installation of lighting in the car park and its re-surfacing after the flood damage. The first was undertaken with help from the parish council and the second

with a business support grant from the city council. We are most grateful for this help. Thanks are also due to many individuals in the parish for practical and financial support during the year, many who seek anonymity, and to Act Too for their donation from the highly enjoyable *Christmas Extravaganza*.

The Management Committee

Membership for the year was:-

Chairman	George Gray	Wonston Parish Council
Treasurer	Sandra Fishlock	Royal British Legion Women's section
Secretary	Sue Lane	elected
Bookings secretary	Valerie Keel	elected
Members:-	Margaret Attfield	Dever Art Group
	Tony Bortoli	Sunshine Club
	Robin Browning	elected
	Gerald Sergeant	Royal British Legion
	vacant	Parent & Toddler Group

The committee met four times during the year. A change of leadership of the Toddler Group took place in the autumn and it is hoped that the new group will provide a representative to the committee once it has become established. Members undertook a number successful fund-raising events. The quiz evening had to be re-scheduled from an evening at the height of the floods but made £1000 when held in March. Two members opened their gardens and provided delicious teas in the summer, raising a welcome £260, and the annual Christmas Fair was the most successful yet in yielding £600. All these events take considerable planning and preparation. Hopefully, they provide pleasant social gatherings as well as producing much needed funds.

Finances

A copy of the accounts for 2014 is attached to this report. Income from lettings remained high and would have out-stripped the previous year had it not been for loss of £770 from cancellations during the floods. At around £13,000 a year this income provides for revenue expenditure of some £7000 – keeping the hall running – and, in a ‘normal’ year, of allowing money to be put aside for capital expenditure. This year the surplus was used for repaying the costs of thatching the garages, leaving the bank balance at only about £700 – a matter which needs to be rectified in

the coming year and a proper reserve established. Our thanks go to Peter Barron who assumed the task of examining the accounts, taking over from Wally Taylor whose help over many years has been valued.

Buildings and Grounds

A grant from Winchester Rotary club was much appreciated allowing new china to be bought for the kitchen. Cups and saucers are subject to a high rate of breakage so replacement china is regularly needed. It also proved possible to replace the electric hob with an up-to-date model. The hiring out of tables – a useful service for the community – was not without its problems. Two tables went missing and despite extensive enquiries cannot be found. However, we did acquire 6 stacking chairs and an aerial photograph of Sutton Scotney when Linden Homes closed their adjacent show house.

Without a resident caretaker, each group using the hall is asked to leave the facilities as they find them. With up to five bookings on any one day this is the only way in which we can offer clean and welcoming premises for all users. Most people respect this requirement, on the occasion when this is not the case real problems ensue, calling for stronger enforcement action in future.

Lengthy investigations into the possibility of connecting the foul drainage system to that installed by Linden Homes at Taylors Yard proved inconclusive. A possible scheme has been drawn up and will be retained for future reference but practical and financial hurdles suggest that it may be difficult to achieve this.

The future

We look forward to a year of continuing good use and, with the ever increasing size of the parish, to the involvement of new residents. After three years of holding level our charges, small increases to booking fees have been agreed for 2015. The Parish Plan identified a number of people willing to become involved with running activities and with organising and supporting fund raising events; this bodes well for the future. The most mentioned request was for an outside notice-board and this will top the ‘to-do’ list for the coming year.