

# Victoria Hall

Reg. Charity No. 301961

## Annual Report & Accounts 2010



Air source heat pumps installed in August

2010 has again been a busy year with the Hall very well used by new as well as existing groups and individuals. Income from lettings topped £10,000 for the first time, this despite exceptionally cold weather in January and again in November and December with snow and ice causing a number of cancellations. In September we welcomed art classes, relocated from Winchester, who use the meeting room on two days a week, saw the start of a popular Zumba class and hosted *Aladdin*, the first village pantomime for many years.

The most important improvement to the building was the installation of air source heat pumps, replacing oil as our heating fuel. We were fortunate in obtaining grants from two government schemes: the Low Carbon Buildings Programme and Sustainable Communities, part of the Big Lottery fund. These grants covered the costs of some £28,000 leaving only 5% VAT to be paid from our own funds. The work was carried out by Ecovision Systems Limited. By enabling community buildings to choose a greener and more economical heating method the aim is to spread the word and encourage householders and businesses to follow suit. For this reason a display board in the foyer indicates the heat obtained, electricity used in converting the heat, and the amount of carbon saved. The *Hampshire Chronicle* and the *West Dever News*, our local community magazine, both carried articles and *Community Action Hampshire* was invited to tell other village halls about the scheme. The secretary was able to speak at a meeting of *Winchester Action on Climate Change* taking place in the Hall and to her surprise was videoed so doing! Whilst the financial benefits need a longer time period to show results, the overall reaction has been very favourable with the building always pleasantly warm on arrival.

**President: Lyla Ayres**

## **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
Members:	Margaret Attfield	Dever Art Group
	Tony Bortoli	Sunshine Club
	Robin Browning	elected
	Claire Ewings	Parent & Toddlers Group
	Sharon Phillips	Junior Youth Club
	Gerald Sergeant	Royal British Legion
	Janet Taplin	elected

The committee met four times during the year and organized a successful Christmas Fair to raise funds. In October our President, Lyla Ayre's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated and a bouquet of flowers presented to her. Lyla has an association with the Hall of well over fifty years.

## **Finances**

A copy of the Accounts for 2010 is attached to this report showing an end of year balance of over £9190. We have changed our banking arrangements and now have two accounts at Lloyds Bank allowing us to gain a very modest interest on the deposit account and to have the advantage of a cheque book account for day to day needs. We were delighted to be offered a grant of £593.00 by Zurich Insurance, owners of the Sutton Scotney Estate and earmarked this money for new kitchen flooring.

We are most grateful to Wally Taylor for once again kindly examining our accounts.

## **Building and grounds**

The Hall remains in generally good condition although heavy use does cause considerable wear and tear. Following the installation of the air source heat pumps a number of alterations were needed in the kitchen to box in the new equipment and new flooring was ordered in December. A replacement wall-mounted water heater has been delivered and should be fitted in January. Holes in the car park have been filled once again and the surface is now in a reasonable state. It is one of those items that needs regular attention and is very dependent on weather conditions.

## **The Future**

Following the installation of the new heating system it has been agreed to add secondary glazing to the windows in the main hall facing the Oxford Road. This should not only help retain heat but should also assist in reducing the noise of traffic. The possibility of adding interior insulating material to this same wall is to be explored. Some interior decoration is needed; self-help may well prove sufficient in tackling this. The tower clock is no longer wound regularly and unless a volunteer is forthcoming it may be necessary to have it adapted to an electrically powered system.

As always, we continue to seek ways of widening the use of the Hall and in welcoming newcomers to the many activities.

**President: Lyla Ayres**