

Victoria Hall

Charity Reg. 301961

President: Lyla Ayres

Annual Report and Accounts

2011



2011 has been another busy year in which an increasing number of individuals and groups have used the building and income from lettings has risen by some 20%. It is good that the facilities are providing such a useful resource and that they involve such a wide range of activities. As well as the many family parties, charity fund raising events and various musical and theatrical shows, including the village pantomime, we have welcomed a number of small local businesses who require training and meeting facilities and hosted county-wide organisations for whom Sutton Scotney proves a convenient venue. Clubs and societies meeting regularly throughout the year form the main body of our users and provide representatives who run and manage the Hall on behalf of the community.

The most exciting addition to the Hall has been the mural created by artist Alex Hoare, shown above. The idea evolved from a series of workshops arranged

by Winchester Action for Climate Change and the triptych depicts Wonston parish in the middle ages, in the more recent past and in the present day. Ideas of how people lived, worked and travelled informing sustainable solutions in the future.

A request that we buy the car park from the Rank Foundation came as a complete surprise and one that has concentrated thinking and financial planning for the latter part of the year. The car park, a corner of Dairy Meadow, has been made available to the Hall by the Sutton Scotney Estate since cars were used. The position was put on a formal footing in 1997, to meet the requirements for a grant from the National Lottery Board, when a lease with a peppercorn rent was agreed with the Lord Rank 1958 Trust. This local charity has now been subsumed into the national Rank Foundation whose activities do not involve land holding. Enquiries from the Charity Commission, our solicitor and valuer led to an offer being made in November. As yet, negotiations have not been resolved but substantial funds will be required to enable us to safeguard this essential facility for the future. A restricted fund, shown in the accounts, identifies monies received specifically for this purpose and we are extremely grateful for donations, or offers, from member groups as well as to Zurich Assurance, the present owners of the Estate.

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 & Toddler Group
	Sharon Phillips	Junior Youth Club
	Gerald Sergeant	Royal British Legion
	Janet Taplin	elected

The committee met four times during the year and organised a very successful Christmas Fair that raised over £600. It was sad to say good-bye to Sharon Phillips who has run a thriving club for younger children for five years and to note that as yet no new leader has come forward.

Finances

A copy of the accounts for 2011 is attached to this report showing an end of year balance of £15,000. This includes the restricted fund of £1500. Whilst this appears a healthy position, the purchase of the car park and associated legal expenses will eat into much of this. As use of the Hall increases, so the costs of heating, cleaning and maintaining it increase. The new air-source heating system provides a constant day and evening temperature six days a week, boosted when necessary on a Sunday. It is a relief to have lost dependency on oil but electricity costs at £1900 are not insignificant. We were delighted to receive a donation of over £1300 from *Act Too* following their performance of *Aladdin* in 2010; at their request, £400 of this has been used to upgrade stage lighting.

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

Building and Grounds

The general condition of the Hall is good. Some repair work remains outstanding and further insulation is still planned. An overhaul of the tower clock was undertaken during the year. Baldwin Clocks of Twyford inspected and cleaned the clock which they described as an interesting example of a small tower clock. It was installed in 1905 and, with regular cleaning, should last for a further 100 years. We are very grateful to volunteer James Day who has taken over responsibility for the weekly winding of the clock. Caretaker, Jerry Norris, and groundsman, Brian Taplin, combine to keep building and grounds safe and attractive and their help is much appreciated.

The Future

The immediate priority is to resolve the purchase of the car park. All other calls on our resources must wait until this is concluded. In the year of this Queen's diamond jubilee, we look back to 1897, Victoria's diamond jubilee and the year in which the Hall was built to commemorate that event. What plans should be made this year?