

Victoria Hall

Charity Reg. 301961

President: Lyla Ayres

Annual Report and Accounts

2012



2012 has shown that the hall continues to provide a valuable community resource with bookings for family events and group activities remaining at a high level. It is a popular venue and much enjoyed by many users.

The year has been dominated by negotiations to purchase the car park. Routine maintenance of building and grounds has been undertaken but all projects to improve facilities have been put on hold pending completion of the sale. The Rank Foundation requested that we buy this in 2011 and in November of that year accepted our offer price. Part of the reason for this frustrating delay has been caused by waiting for their sale of the garages situated at the southern end of the car park and by agreement over access rights for garage users.

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
	Gerald Sergeant	Royal British Legion
	Janet Taplin	elected

The committee met four times during the year. Claire Ewings left us in October and, sadly, no leader has yet come forward to take on responsibility for the parent and toddler group. This is worrying as there are high numbers of under 5s in the parish and the group offered support and friendship for parents as well as play opportunities for children. Members organised a successful Christmas Market in December, a change of approach from the traditional all-day Fair in November.

Finances

A copy of the accounts for 2012 is attached to this report showing a healthy end of year balance. This apparently strong financial situation masks the fact that funds identified for the purchase of the car park and for the associated solicitor's fees are held within it, pending completion. Only when the final sums for this acquisition are known will a true picture of our resources be evident.

Income is somewhat reduced from last year although outstanding lettings payments are awaited. A donation of £1100 from *Act Too* following their 2011 performance is gratefully acknowledged, as is a grant of £1000 from Wonston Parish Council towards the purchase of the car park.

Costs of heating, cleaning and maintaining the hall have risen very considerably. Electricity, in particular, is a cause for concern with an increase of nearly £500 on the previous year. Overall revenue expenditure has moved from £6,500 in 2011 to some £8,000 in 2012. This, despite achieving a welcome reduction in the insurance premium.

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

Buildings and grounds

The entry for Sutton Scotney in the 2010 edition of Pevsner, *The Buildings of England*, includes:

‘VICTORIA HALL, s end of the village. 1897. Roughcast and tile in the Voysey manner. The pretty clock tower was added in 1902. Substantially extended 2001 by *David Gregory*, in a sympathetic manner.’¹

Twelve years have passed since the major work carried out in 2001 was completed. No outside and only limited inside decoration has taken place since then and a number of areas are in need of attention. The kitchen was last improved in 1997, at the time of the centenary anniversary, and it too requires bringing up to date.

The harsh winter has caused problems to the surface of the car park. Continuous heavy rain led to potholes and flooding. Lack of lighting in the car park has meant that users have had a difficult time negotiating some of the hazards.

Important maintenance work has been carried out on emergency lighting and fire call points, as well as on the outside lights that are activated by movement.

The future

As remarked in last year’s report, it is necessary to confirm that no capital work can be undertaken until the purchase of the car park has been completed. Once this major item is behind us it will be possible to review our financial position and plan appropriate work. An audit of the whole property has been proposed to enable an ordered approach to this.

On the personnel front, we are still hoping that volunteers will re-start the junior youth club and the parent & toddler group. The job of bookings’ secretary continues to be undertaken by the secretary; a volunteer for this important role would mean that work was more equitably shared among post holders.

¹ Michael Bullen, John Crook, Rodney Hubuck and Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England, Hampshire: Winchester and the North*, Yale University Press, New Haven & London, 2010, p.511.