

Victoria Hall

Charity Reg. 301961

President: Lyla Ayres

Annual Report and Accounts

2013



Art exhibition held in October by the Dever Art Group

2013 has been another very busy year with bookings for group activities and family events remaining at a high level. It was particularly pleasing to welcome a newly formed parent and toddler group and also the start of a community choir, both now firmly established. The annual art exhibition, pictured above, attracted considerable interest, as did the Threadbare theatre's production of *Daisy Pulls it Off*, whilst Egg Day Nursery's nativity play was enjoyed by parents and friends.

The purchase of the car park from the Rank Foundation was completed in June, some eighteen months after our offer had been accepted. The deadlock in negotiations was only broken by purchasing the four garages at the southern end of the car park as part of the whole sale. It was a great relief to have acquired the long-term security of car parking for hall users but the additional, unexpected, expenditure absorbed our total reserves. As the garages needed thatching before they could be let, a major fund raising programme was initiated and we are indebted to many individuals and groups for their support.

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 sec.	Valerie Keel	co-opted
Members	Margaret Attfield	Dever Art Group
	Tony Bortoli	Sunshine Club
	Robin Browning	elected
	Vacant	Parent & Toddler Group
	Gerald Sergeant	Royal British Legion
	Janet Taplin	elected

The committee met four times during the year. A warm welcome was given to Valerie Keel who has taken on the role of bookings secretary, splitting the job from that of secretary. Members were sorry to say good-bye to Janet Taplin on her move to Wales in the summer.

Finances

A copy of the accounts for 2013 is attached to this report showing that, whilst the books are balanced, an outstanding loan of £9,000.00 remains to be repaid. The major outlay of the year was £27,500.00 for the purchase of the car park and garages, coupled with £13,400 thatching costs.

This heavy expenditure has been met by generous donations from individuals and user groups of some £6,630.00, a grant of £2,500.00 from Hampshire County Council, fund raising activities of £1,250.00 and an interest free loan of £12,000.00. The balance came from reserves, largely generated from lettings income. We are very grateful for all the support from the community; this includes Act Too's *Christmas Extravaganza* whose donation will appear in next year's accounts.

On a positive note, income from lettings is the highest recorded, £3000 of the loan has already been repaid and we face 2014 with confidence.

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

Buildings and grounds.

Sanding and oiling the floor in the main hall was the one improvement to the building that was possible to carry out this year thanks to grants from the parish council (£1000) and county council (£700). This has made a big difference – a safe and splinter free surface and a lighter look to the hall.

Linden Homes started building work on the adjacent Taylors yard in September. Windows at our side entrance damaged in the first week were immediately replaced and a good relationship established with the site manager and the firm.

Thatching the garages was completed in November, the storms experienced since then showing that it was a wise decision to undertake this work before attempting to let them. The original thatch was in very poor condition and was unlikely to have survived the high winds and driving rain of December. The work was carried out in water reed and with painting to woodwork and doors, undertaken by the chairman, the building looks very good - an asset to the conservation area.

The future

The main task for the coming year is to repay the outstanding loan and this will be achieved through continued fund raising, Gift Aid on donations and lettings income from hall and from the garages.

Appreciating the difficult financial position in which the Hall was placed by the Rank Foundations' wish to divest itself of property in the village, the parish council has made a generous offer to fund urgent development work that would otherwise not have been possible to tackle in 2014/15. Hopefully, this includes connecting the foul drainage to that of Taylor's Grange, once Southern Water have taken over responsibility for the system. It is also hoped to install lighting in the car park, with possible help from developers' monies held for parish use, as well as improve the surface.

Welcome leaflets will be prepared, listing our regular activities and contact details, for fifteen new homes at Taylors Grange that should be occupied in the late spring/summer. New residents to the village will doubtless add to hall users and, hopefully, bring new talents and interests.