

Victoria Hall

Charity reg. 301961

Annual Report and Accounts

2015



Notice board made by Ernie Knight

This was another busy year in which the Hall was well used by many groups and individuals from the parish and surrounding area. External and internal redecoration of the entire premises was the main improvement undertaken and we were pleased to obtain a noticeboard for the front of the building. Voluntary help with many aspects of the Hall's life was welcomed and appreciated.

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. The Sutton Scotney Tots has yet to nominate a representative to the committee but it is hoped that they and a new user group with a block booking - a Beaver Colony part of the 14th Winchester Scout Group - will join the committee in 2016. The hall depends on the work of the several officers, some of whom have served for many years, and without whom it would not function – appropriate acknowledgement is hereby made.

Finances

A copy of the accounts for 2015 is attached to this report. Income from lettings was slightly lower than the previous year – disappointing as new rates had been introduced in January, our normal three yearly increase aimed at keeping it in balance with the costs of running the building. The reduction of art classes from two days to one day a week probably accounts for this situation. The closing bank balance rose from £723 at the end of 2014 to £1,325 but remains low and a more realistic reserve fund is something to strive for in the coming year. We are grateful to Peter Barron for examining the accounts.

Fund raising

The Christmas Market was the main fund raising event of the year and committee members and friends united to make this a successful event which raised £510. A very enjoyable afternoon concert organised by *Act Too* added £81 and provided a suitably 'Christmassy' feel to the whole day. Coffee and cake in the morning and tea and cake (and mulled wine) in the afternoon proved popular.

Buildings and Grounds

The buildings are in a good state of repair. A programme of redecoration was undertaken throughout the year. This was largely carried out during school holidays to coincide with periods which were less busy and we were grateful to the painters and users for 'fitting in' with each other. The main hall looks lighter and brighter and the whole building benefitted from attention.

We welcomed Mick Hill as the tower clock winder, a job that requires commitment and maintains a service to the whole village. Wood was given for an external noticeboard which was designed and made by Ernie Knight. Thanks are due to all concerned.

The new surface in the car park, installed in 2014, withstood winter rainfall and the better gradient meant that water drained more quickly into the sump. The work appears to have been successful, spoilt only by a large puddle which forms at the entrance to the car park. This is on land partly owned by the Highways department and is something we hope to resolve in the coming year.

An amelanchier tree was planted to replace the original tree commemorating Ernie Kimber. It became proved necessary to cut back the hedge which impeded the footpath and side entrance as Linden Homes failed to respond to our requests and those of the parish council.

Keeping the hall and grounds in a satisfactory condition is a large task and involves considerable expenditure. It is important that users of the hall play their part in keeping the facilities in good order and this has generally been the case in the past year.

Future

We look forward to a year of maintaining the hall's availability, seeking ways of widening its use and in welcoming newcomers to the many activities. Financial resources need to be built up in order to be in a position to respond as necessary to events and requirements.