

OVERVIEW

The year has been very successful with major work being carried out on the hall which has proved to be beneficial to hall users and has attracted larger groups, namely wedding receptions . We have finished the year with a healthy bank balance due to various generous grants and the hard work of the committee when organising various fund raising events.

There are still many improvements that need to be done to complete the refurbishment, the largest being the replacement of the hall roof and rebuilding part of the front entrance.

COMMITTEE

Cliff Seymour-Smith resigned as Chairman in January as he was unable to give the Chairmanship the time that it deserved due to pressure of work with his business.

Cindy Neep resigned as she felt she was unable to attend a lot of the meetings

Michael Moore resigned as he was leaving the area to go to pastures new.

Michelle Jardine was welcomed to the committee and she has a particular expertise in grant applications and has agreed to help with the application to the Lottery for the replacement of the roof.

Current members are Chris Hitchings (Chair & Trustee), Sheila Cholwill (Secretary & Trustee) Alan Quilter (Trustee). Rose Hitchings, Barry Williams, Brian Beadle, John McDougal, Jimmy Rickett, Michelle Jardine

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HALL

The hall floor has been completely replaced (and also the 2 alleyways to the rear kitchen) with Luxury Vinyl Tiles that have a 15 year guarantee . The rear Kitchen has been completely replaced with new units, two ovens, a new water heater, two wash basins and a new "slip-proof" floor. The rear toilet has been replaced . The storage cabinets in the kitchen have been retained but with new doors. All new electrics have been fitted together with floor mounted heaters.

We are indebted to those volunteers from the village who came to the hall to scrape the bitumen off prior to the laying of the vinyl in the main hall.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Replace the hall roof with box section insulated roof sheets, dispose of the old asbestos roof sheets by specialist contractor, Rebuild and re-roof the entrance porch, Refurbish the old theatre storage area, construct a new driveway/access to the rear of the hall, repair the play area where the new concrete path is higher than the grassed area. Routine maintenance as and when required.

Planning permission has been sought for the two roofs and we await the decision from Torridge D.C. Ken Carroll of Carroll Design was asked to draw up plans and Penpont Ecology was appointed to do a Bat Survey.

FINANCES

We have been lucky to have received grants this current year from Torridge District Council £10,000 (courtesy Councillor Ken James,) £500 from Devon County Council (courtesy Councillor Barry Parsons), £5000 from Garfield Weston Charitable Foundation, £383 from Waitrose, £500 Lord Amory Trust, £500.00, TAP Fund £637, £1200.00 Parish Council and many smaller amounts from local organisations as well as Fund raising activities (Johnny Cowling £1700) and Bridgerule Coffee Club £1000, Table Top Sale £1500. Sale of Old Chairs £800.00.

Davisons of Holsworthy have been appointed as accountants, the previous accountants, R.T.Marke were based in Bideford and too far away.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

We intend to start monthly meals at the hall for members of the Coffee Club. We have had a meeting with the Environmental Health Officer who has inspected the food preparation area and we have two ladies, one who is in catering and has the relevant hygiene certificate, who are willing to do the cooking.

GENERAL

We have had a few problems with the outreach Post Office over the year, and have been in touch with the Post Office Management and Geoffrey Cox M.P. to try and get the matter resolved. It seems that the problem is old equipment which is due to be replaced in the next few weeks which should eradicate any problems in the future (we hope!)

We are delighted to report that we have a Defibrillator at the hall now which was donated by the British Heart Foundation. It is being checked monthly by Matthew Gliddon (as per instructions) and has not been used but has been taken out to two incidents where it wasn't needed. The door has been left open a few times by inquisitive children and the School has been informed and a member of the Committee went to the school to talk to the children about it.

I am indebted to the members of the committee who have been so helpful over the year and have worked tirelessly for the benefit of the users of the hall. Taking over as Chairman was something that I hadn't envisaged and I have been on a very steep learning curve.

I would particularly like to thank Sheila Cholwill who really is the person that keeps everything going and who has given me so much helpful advice and encouragement – without her help things would not have got done .

I would also thank all those lovely people that support the hall, either by attending functions, or cleaning on a regular basis, making cakes and sandwiches for concerts or giving raffle prizes. Thank you all.

Lastly I would also like to extend the committee's grateful thanks Cliff Seymour-Smith who has worked so hard for other people's benefit over many years to get the hall to the position it is in now.