

11th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chairman's report and observations:

This year there has been little progress with the building and the necessary major refurbishment, although there have been some essential maintenance and investigations done. The events that have taken place have proved to be very popular and their attendance has been either very good or outstanding.

REVIEW:

The Building & Grounds :

After the last meeting in April a working party cleared the South wall overgrowth revealing the poor condition of the top half of the wall and the work that needs to be done to the repair of the wall and the rotten mortar

I am aware of the contribution to the outside aspect of the hall and its surrounding area that Edward and the England family make ensuring the maintenance of the drive and the mowing of the grass

Other efforts by Geoff & Edward to tidy up the doors & exterior paint work have been noted and appreciated.

More recently Geoff Hunt has started work on the lobby to tidy it up for the forthcoming season.

In September 2013 we commissioned a Drains survey This resulted in the provision of video evidence showing the state of the drains around the hall which are in serviceable condition but their refurbishment will need to be included in any major work done on the hall. The destination of the drain system still remains a mystery and this, with the cooperation of Edward England, must be resolved before any major work can be undertaken

Other ground work outstanding is the mains water supply which should be reinstalled / refurbished, The contractor has been very busy and has yet to commit to a date.

Paper work & legal matters: In January the premises Licence was secured and in May a TV licence was issued although the minor details are not as requested in the application.

Events & Activities:

The breadth and popularity of events goes from strength to strength.

Flicks is an essential core event that works in many ways to make the hall a regular place of activity.

Growth of reputation with the Snowdrop Walk and the Bluebell Walk - spreads the word well beyond Cound. The Snowdrop walk is now a fixed item in peoples calendars.

The talk "A Life in Motoring" by Mike Loasby was a great success and brought people from the Scottish borders . Other events have drawn in a different mix of people and in doing so we have supported the Church with the Fete in May and Come and Sing in October last year.

Impromptu TV based events will follow on from last years Jubilee River Pageant event, very recently we have had the Men's Wimbledon finals and anticipate others will follow during the forthcoming year.

On each occasion we are congratulated on the quality of our food and the standard of catering despite the dire state of our kitchen. Our unofficial motto has become "we do cakes well in Cound"

My thanks to all those that have made these events happen and always make them such a success.

THE FUTURE:

Future Objectives & Projects:

- More events of a varied nature
- Work to commence on the Kitchen – I'm minded we should try and get a big grant to see if we can do Kitchen, Toilets & Windows all in one hit

CONCLUSION:

Currently the Guildhall:

- Impresses first time visitors with its warmth and character as well as the welcome from the volunteers involved in an event.
- Is still in need of another phase of major work.

My thanks to everyone that has kept it moving throughout the year. Every little participation makes a difference to the hall and its future.

Tim ROBERTS ~ 14th July 2014