

**14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**REVIEW:**

**Administrative & Legal:**

To the best of my knowledge all our licences, certificates and policies are all current and in date. If, during the year, anyone is aware of anything that may be outstanding then please let me know. This also applies to any issues that could affect the Welfare Safety & Health any volunteer or visitor to the Guildhall.

**The Building & Grounds:**

Sadly, this year there have been no significant developments of the fabric and facilities of the building.

The trustees have met several times with the Architect Matthew Franklin of BDG group and have discussed the facilities needed and viewed some suggested designs. It is hoped that there will soon be a definitive plan that can be submitted for Planning, Building Control and more importantly enable us to Secure an accurate costing for the development.

**Events & Activities:**

Remarkably though the use and popularity of the Guildhall is continuing with core events and a wide range of private hires.

The Flicks programme of 8 films was popular and attracted some additional new patrons.

The four days of the Snowdrop Walk was again a great success along with one day of the Bluebell Walk which drew in regular visitors and people from further afield. The high quality and variety of Soups and Cakes are key to the success of these events.

The St Peters Fete was another major high point of the year for visitor numbers to the Guildhall. Although it was agreed that the footfall was lower this year, the fete again was a success.

The Parish Council uses the hall for its three summer meetings whilst other political usage of the hall has been as a polling station in May for the Unitary Elections followed by the Parliamentary Election in June Whilst the nominations for the Parish Council were uncontested

The Cound District Craft Circle has continued to meet although a small but dedicated group they appreciate the use of the hall. Their topics and activities have proved to be very varied and they have a programme planned for the rest of the year.

Other private hire events have included the private hire for 5 regular Scottish Dancing once a month during the winter. Children's Parties, the PCC for their AGM and a Funeral Webcast. All proving that despite the poor facilities the Guildhall has the adaptability and ability to accommodate the needs of the community.

Last year's use of the hall total was 35 events/days. This year the hall has been use on 50 occasions since last July. The 50<sup>th</sup> was the Wimbledon Strawberry Teas on Saturday. The increased numbers came from new users and additional private hire.

Even with an increase of private hire we must remember that there would be no core events without the terrific support from all of those that initiate and volunteer to make the hall work in so many ways.

On a sad note, I wish to acknowledge the contribution made by John Cuffley in the supporting the Guildhall and our community as a whole. Although we all will miss him he will be remembered as a generous individual with a very balanced view of life.

**THE FUTURE:**

It's hoped that in the next 12 months with the services of Matthew Franklin [Architect] to make some positive progress to redevelop the inadequate Kitchen & Toilets.

**CONCLUSION:**

Although the Guildhall continues to have limited facilities the uses it is put to with the core activities and the innovative events it is clearly established as and is increasing in its role as an essential resource for the residents of the Parish and further afield. It must be acknowledged though that the Guildhall only exists and succeeds because of the people that are willing to support it in so many different ways and I for one am very grateful to them for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Tim ROBERTS ~ 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017