

Chairman's Report to Guildhall Trustees

At the last AGM I was optimistic about the way we were progressing and what the forthcoming year held.

In July we started exporting electricity from the PV unit and this is proving to be making a considerable contribution to the Guildhall income. From the switch on to March this year we have received approximately £800.

This was nearly negated with the arrival of a bill for £3,384 from Severn Trent after a meter reading that was taken in January this year. The meter reading was very high due to a water leak that had been on-going since December 2010. With some protracted negotiation this was finally reduced to £30-13 on condition we monitor our meter readings on a monthly basis.

Following on from the reroofing and the PV installation the rest of the large Grant we received and our own funds allowed us to complete the 3rd phase of the project and employ Simon Demos to insulate and plastered the interior of the hall. We have already appreciated the benefits even though it has been a relatively mild winter.

More recently Simon has repainted the ceiling and beams, this was funded with a Grant from the L.J.C. As part of the same project we have also received a sizable donation of paint from David Waller. Now we just need the working parties organised and we will hopefully soon have the rest of the main hall painted.

The removal of the laurel bushes around the club room has made a marked difference to the aspect of the building making it tidier in appearance but revealing the work that needs to be done on the Clubroom.

We have also had the front wall of the curtilage rebuilt which was, many years, in danger of collapse. Strangely it was damaged within a week of its rebuilding by a delivery van but nothing too serious.

The Web site has been improved and is becoming more popular as the access has improved and the content expanded. It is now a valuable Guildhall and Village resource.

Events & Activities:

During the year in addition to the keystone event of St Peters Fete the Guildhall has supported St Peters as a temporary place of worship in April during major work in the church. The Guildhall also hosted Team Ministry meetings on two occasions as well as the venue for a PCC meeting.

The Guildhall has provided facilities for Cound Hall Cricket matches on several occasions.

The Flicks in the Sticks programme has again been very successful with a varied programme of eight films this year that has entertained and fed a growing audience. So much so that we really will have to sell tickets in advance as we are nearly at a capacity that we can cater for.

The trustees team have held a variety of events as fundraising entertainments these have included: a Concert by Cantatina - Providing teas and cakes over three days in February for the Snowdrop Walkers - and two July Garden Parties blessed with excellent weather during this very wet summer. Tea and cake events are always a winner in this village.

To my mind the highlight of the year was the Jubilee Celebration when the hall was open to all as a free venue for a “bring and share buffet lunch” whilst we watched the river pageant live on the big screen. There was a fantastic atmosphere and many new faces the hall was packed tight but sadly only 59 people to celebrate the Queens 60th anniversary

My thanks to all those that have made these events happen and the way in which we have such a flexible team of people prepared to lead so many different activities with such enthusiasm is extremely heartening.

We have recently agreed to host a small business on a temporary basis. They are a Dog Therapy Team and they currently use the hall for one afternoon a week usually between 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. The days are flexible and they hope to expand their hours to give themselves a client base that would justify moving in to a permanent unit elsewhere. This is an interesting project and demonstrates how the hall can be used as and adaptable and supportive resource within the wider community of Shropshire.

The Guildhall has also loaned out equipment to a variety of other community activities including private parties and charity events.

Future Events:

- The Flicks programme has yet to be formulated for the autumn season but indications are that it promises once again to be an interesting programme.
- For the next twelve months we already have bookings for a private event and the elections in May as well as our own regular activities.
- Other events we hope will be instigated could be single events or regular use by a community group of some description. Pilates, Bridge, Dance & Keep Fit have been suggested.

Future Projects:

- In the near future it's hoped that we will start work on the kitchen once quotes and Grants have been secured. Recently this has become extremely urgent as water is leaking through the roof during the recent heavy rain and is in danger of permanently damaging the cooker and fridge.
- Combined with this project it would be sensible to replace the windows throughout the building with maintenance free double glazed units.
- On a longer term basis we need to resolve the priorities of either the ambitious project to make the entrance to the hall safer and more welcoming combined with the Toilets building project to make the toilets DDA'95 compliant.

- Smaller projects include an improved and flexible lighting system for the main hall and
- The Installation of a sustainable and economical heating system.

Future funding:

- The fund-raising in the community this year has proven to be innovative and very beneficial to the funds hopefully this will continue.
- There are local Grants available that the Guildhall is eligible for as well as National Funding in the form of the Lottery. With well formulated plans all these avenues are open to us, it is purely a matter of as a team gathering in the supportive information.

At this point in time the Guildhall is :

- structurally sound but needing urgent refurbishment of the Kitchen area.
- getting closer to looking and feeling very much more attractive.
- even closer to becoming financially and environmentally sustainable.
- expanding its role to even more ways than previously as a community resource
- acting as a catalyst for community involvement.

My thanks to everyone that has been involved in any activity or project associated with the Guildhall this past year, either as a; contractor, user, participant, contributor, organiser or instigator. You all make a difference to the halls future.

Tim ROBERTS

16th July 2012