

Chairman's Report to
Cound Guildhall Trustees
8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 7:30 pm – Monday 18th July 2011

Chairman's report

At the previous AGM in October last year I for one was feeling far from optimistic about the Guildhalls future I described the proceeding year as uninspiring and the future not exactly bright having at that time secured none of the grants we had applied for during the year. Christmas was not far away and the Guildhall AGM was a cold and dismal event. In the week before Christmas though we received the news that the Council had reviewed the applications for the Community Fund Grant and the Guildhall was to be awarded in the region of £36,000 This was £10,000 short of the original application. But it would enable us to refurbish the roof and installation of Photo Voltaic Cells.

The favoured contractors where contacted and the project costs reviewed. Planning submission and Building Control applications were put in and the project was planned for the summer. With a sizeable additional contribution from Mr & Mrs England and Mr & Mrs Sartain towards the PV project we have managed to afford the Roof & PV costs even though its proved there has been a small increase in the project costs at payment in this July of this year.

I can report that the roof has been refurbished, chimney pointed and the roof space insulated The Photo Voltaic system has been installed and switched on. We should shortly be making money!

The grant fund has been very carefully controlled by our treasurer and consequently with a little more fundraising we could have sufficient in hand to complete the original projects third objective and have the walls of the hall insulated by Simon Demos.

However all this big project excitement must not detract from the good year the hall has had as a community resource given its current condition.

REVIEW:

In addition to St Peters Fete I gather we have had at least 2 Birthday party's - the Tennis Club AGM and - the BBC hiring the hall.

The trustees have also held a variety of events as fundraising entertainments these have included a Latin Dance class, Medieval music & dance with Halfe Pannikin and a hi summer barbeque and beer party with Tap the Keg. These have been led by Linda, Mavis and Janet. They have all successfully raised money for the Guildhall.

There has also been an outstanding working party event remove the overgrown ivy on the party wall with Glebe House. Revealing another worry for the Trustees in the shape of the wall at the entrance.

The Flicks programme once more has been successful indeed this time they have done better than "getting it right", to quote from my report at the last AGM. The programme of 6 films has been thought to be better than the last one with a Sunday afternoon record audience of 65 for the Kings Speech! This could be a peak we may not necessarily repeat too often but it does prove we can get people into the hall and they go away having had an enjoyable experience. My thanks to all those that make it happen and especially Sheila who manages it with such enthusiasm.

THE FUTURE:

Future Events:

- The Flicks programme has been formulated for the early part of the forthcoming season
- It has been requested that Trevor Hill and his wife will give a lecture in the winter season
- Other events we hope will be instigated.

Future Projects:

- In the near future it's hoped that Simon Demos will start work on the interior to insulate it and complete the refurbishment and insulation project.
- There will be need of two major self help projects first to prepare the hall for Simons work and later to repaint the hall when he has finished.
- The trustees will then need to establish the next phase of the halls rejuvenation. These could be:
 - Secure funding and build the new toilet block. Draw up plans and apply for planning permission for a new toilet extension containing at least two cubicles and lobby with storage. The toilets to be DDA'95 compliant
 - Secure funding and draw up plans to refurbish / redevelop the kitchen facilities
 - Replace all the windows in the building
 - Install a sustainable and economical heating system / boiler

Future funding:

- There was a major council grant funding opportunity earlier this year but it was geared more to the regeneration of jobs in the rural community and no matter how it was spun we could not justify an application. Hopefully there may be more available from the council and the lottery may yet prove to be an opportunity.
- In addition to fundraising events and private hire the Guildhall is more regularly hiring its equipment to aid other people's private and charity events This is a process will be need to be managed as a self funding mechanism to ensure the Guildhall can add another facet to its position as a community resource.

CONCLUSION:

The Guildhall as a Building is:

- structurally sounder
- looking a little better on the outside
- hopefully warmer on the inside.
- closer to becoming financially and environmentally sustainable.

The Guildhall as a Resource is fulfilling its role to:

- provide a venue for private events,
- provide opportunities for the enrichment of the communities life and experiences.
- support the needs of people in the community.