

Chairman's Report for 2005/6

Our activity as a managing committee must be viewed against the objectives stated in the 1960 Trust Deed:

To provide a Village Hall for the use of the inhabitants of Tiverton and neighbourhood, particularly for

- Meetings
- Lectures and Classes
- Other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Any income that the management committee raises is used the following order of priority, as required by the Trust Deed:

1. Expenses of administration
2. Hall maintenance, upkeep insurance and other operating expenses
3. Furthering the objectives of the Trust Deed

Any money not needed for working purposes will be treated as capital and invested.

These objectives are delivered through a management committee which has maintenance and good appearance of the Hall as its priority. In addition, the committee promotes and organises events to raise funds for maintenance of the Hall or to offer activities that improve conditions of life.

To this end, the following activity was carried out by the committee in 2005/6

- Cleaning continues to be an issue as the cleaner taken on last year resigned due to pressure of other work. We have been fortunate in finding a contract cleaning organisation offering reasonable rates that started when the hall re-opened in Sept 2006. A contract firm relieves the Management Committee of the paperwork, training and supervision needed for an employee. In addition all cleaning materials are provided as part of the contract, easing the purchasing burden on Committee members.
- The Parish Plan was published in June 2005 with recommendations which the Village Hall has now actioned:
 - Improve communication with parishioners by setting up new notice board, both inside the hall and outside. The outside notice board is more accessible and illuminated at night to make it easier for villagers to read posted notices.
 - A Village Society was set up in early 2006 with support from the Village Hall Management Committee. It has a constitution, Chairman and Treasurer and is due to hold its first AGM in early 2007. There is no overlap in responsibility with Village Hall management. The Society has held several events in 2006 including taking on responsibility for Village Day

- A major project to renew the access to the hall, to make it more accessible to those with an ambulatory impairment, but falling short of full wheel-chair access. Our scheme received the full support of the County Access Officer. WREN was able to provide the major funding for this £21.5K project with financial support from Chester City Rural South Panel, our Parish Council and user groups. The work was scheduled for August 06 during which time the hall was closed to all users for safety reasons. The project was finished to time and the hall re-opened in early Sept for the Garden Club Annual Show.
- The Committee adopted several new policies during the year:
 - Standard Conditions of Hire (June 05)
 - Reserves Policy (Oct 05)
 - Financial Controls Policy (July 06)
- Application for the new Premises License in the name of the management Committee with broader entertainment provisions
- Through funding from Chester City Rural South Panel, the hall has been able to buy and install a new PA system with hearing loop system and radio microphone included. This will be of particular interest to the Bingo Group who has had to support their own PA system. The addition of a CD player would round out this facility.
- The management agenda has also included environmental projects: a water saving system (Cisterniser) for the gents urinal has been installed and recycling facilities for plastic bottles and cans is in place.
- Holding regular committee meetings through the year, approximately every 2 months.

Active participation in the Sandstone News venture has continued though the year with the Hall receiving much useful publicity for its activities.

The Drop In Coffee Morning continues to run on a monthly basis, to include a book exchange scheme.

Although the accounts only appears to show a breakeven position on the year, the true position is much better as the expenditure for the PA and hearing loop equipment (ALAC) appeared in this year, whereas the grant payment (claimed retrospectively) was paid in Oct 2006, too late for this accounting period. Thus the underlying profit is around £650 on the year despite a fall of £800 in casual hire (the Parish Plan contributed significantly in 05/06), somewhat offset by a new long term evening hire (Yoga). We have been successful in retaining our other long term hires at about the same income levels, despite having to close for August to implement the steps project.

The deposit account continues to earn a reasonable rate of interest, contributing £450 to the surplus.

To summarise, 2005/6 has been about continuing to maintain a very successful hall as well as managing a large project to rebuild the hall access and provide better open-air facilities to the front of the hall. This complex project was completed to time and budget, culminating in a well attended opening ceremony on 9 Sept 06.

S A Armitage
Chairman