

## **Chairman's Report for 2008/9**

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 in 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. Where necessary, the committee promotes and organises events to raise funds for maintenance of the Hall.

To this end, the following activity was carried out by the committee in 2008/9:

- The kitchen is looking its age and is badly in need of refurbishment. A sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Derek Salmon was formed in March to look into a better layout for the whole end area of the hall, including the bar area. An interim report suggests eliminating the bar area altogether and using the space for storage of the tables and chairs would help with available floor area for our larger events (the Bar has not been used in years and has become a dumping ground).
- Work has been carried out during the year to better secure the coping stones on the walls alongside the steps. We have found that younger users have used the flat coping stones as a play area and dislodged several of them.
- A survey has been launched to look at ways of reducing energy costs to the hall. Marches Energy Agency has been contacted and grant funding is awaited.
- Regular committee meetings were held through the year, approximately every 2 months.

The Drop In Coffee Morning continues to run on a monthly basis with an average attendance of six, even with regular publicity through the PC Newsletter and web site.

Income from hire of the hall at £2754 has dropped over that received last year, with the biggest fall in receipts from casual hire (down to £240) However energy costs are much lower (down £630) due to the phasing of replenishment of the oil tank, more than offsetting the fall in income. Apart from this accounting perturbation, there has been no significant change in our cost base.

The surplus on the year of £939 represent a modest increase on last year and again there has been no capital expenditure in this year. The contribution from interest on deposits (£285) has almost halved due to the world-wide financial situation and is set to be even lower next year.

To summarise, 2008/9 has been about continuing to maintain a very successful hall, whilst looking to improve the services offered to users and doing all we can to keep our costs under control.

S A Armitage  
Chairman