

Southwick & Widley D-Day Memorial Hall AGM October 22nd 2020

Chairman's report.

This time last year we were celebrating the approval of a grant to re-furbish the hall. In April 2019 we closed the hall completely to allow the works to commence and by 30th April the three projects were completed. A major success for the committee in seeing the whole project satisfactorily completed in less than 30 days. We now boast a kitchen fitted out to comply with the latest Food Standards requirements; a heating a cooling system using the latest technology to use the air we breathe to provide heat, thereby reducing out carbon footprint whilst giving us a far superior heating and ventilation system and finally new high grade insulation against temperature changes whilst giving us much more effective sound-proofing.

We had a few teething problems as you would expect but most of these were solved very quickly. Our sincere thanks go to Winchester City Council for providing much of the funding through the European Leaders Grant; the Southwick Revival group for the top up funding that made this project possible and for all those committee members and others who helped us see the project completed on time. . One issue remains and that is that the new kitchen uses more hot water than the old one so we are planning to increase the hot water capacity in the near future.

The year's activity.

The year from April 2019 to March 2020 was busy with income generated of >£25,000 with expenditure at about £20,000, this excludes the cost of the re-furbishment project as the grants and gifts brought this into balance without having to call on the Halls limited reserves..

Burns Night: Carol Watson and others again organised an excellent evening's entertainment again raising over £900. Thank you to Carol and your team and in particular to Teresa Stevens who has sadly now left the village for pastures new in Spain. She was a regular helper at many of the village functions

Golf Day: Tony Adams organised another Golf Day in aid of the Hall which was supported even better this year and Tony's son-in law Graham from Facilities Management (Southern) Ltd again sponsoring the event and raising over £1000. Our sincere thanks to Tony and Graham for a great day..

Elected Trustees. Warren Bailey was elected a Trustee at our last AGM and combines this with his role in keeping the hall in good condition and ready for everyone to use. We have sadly lost another Trustee this year due to additional business commitments so we are looking for at least one new Trustee this year. We would welcome nominations for new Trustees at the upcoming AGM and if we are fortunate enough to get more than one nomination we will conduct a ballot for all Trustee positons. Please let Carol Watson know. We are also looking for someone to be trained up to take over as Treasurer at some time as Elaine Pound, the current Treasurer has been in post about 19 years and for health reasons may need to step

down although she is happy to provide training to a new incumbent. Experience of simple bookkeeping would be an advantage but is not essential.

Our sincere thanks to our Committee secretary Carol Watson for all her efforts in arranging the meetings and generally keeping us all organised.

Our thanks to Elaine Pound for keeping an ever eagle eye on our finances.

Thanks also to Pauline Bailey who has done a great job with our bookings despite recent difficulties.

Our thanks to Warren Bailey who continues to keep the hall in excellent condition.

Tony Taylor for showing prospective clients around the hall and working with Warren to ensure the property is kept in good shape. He has recently informed me that he plans to stand down as a Trustee through other work commitments but tells me his daughter Mabel is willing to help out by showing prospective users what we have to offer. Thank you Tony for your many years of devoted service.

Thanks also to Paul and Tony Osborne and his team at the Village Shop for handling the hall keys on our behalf.

Without the help of each one of these people we would not be able to operate as we do now. Thank you, one and all.

Once again I would like to acknowledge the help we have received over the years from the Southwick Revival Group without whose help we could not have done any of the major improvements. Whilst this year was a planned break it is still hoped that 2021 can see a return of this superb event. Thank you everyone.

The current situation.

This report only covers the period until 31st March but since then, as you all know, we have been forced to close the hall. The consequences are that all the pre-booked weddings have either had to be postponed until next year or cancelled and all the village events have had to be cancelled. Revenue has ceased although the Government, via Winchester City Council did provide a grant of £10,000 to help us stay viable. Since certain rules have been relaxed there are options for some groups to start back up again but we face a dilemma in that if the demand is too low it will cost us much more to open for a few groups than the revenue we will generate. There will be discussion at the meeting about the way ahead.

.Brian Pound/Chairman's Report/ AGM Oct 2020