

Woore Victory Hall

Registered Charity No 522589

Trustees' Annual Report (Summary) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Introduction:

We started the year as we ended the previous one, with the hall closed in line with Government guidelines following the Covid-19 outbreak.

Like most village halls, The Victory Hall relies upon income from its hirers whilst still having its fixed overheads which do not necessarily reduce that much even if the doors are closed. Unlike members clubs we do not have subscriptions to generate income.

During the year our general fund income over expenditure shows a loss of £ 6,334. Had we not been able to secure one of the government grants during the first lock-down we could have been in the very real position of having to close the doors indefinitely.

Normally our only other source of income is from fundraising events which happen at the hall, but we haven't had that as an option. Our finances have certainly been a challenge but it has also been a challenge for the trustees, some of whom have been self-isolating. The committee is small in number and reducing, so the present challenge is getting people to volunteer to come forward to help maintain this community facility.

Closing in March 2020 was pretty straightforward – well we had to, so all we needed to do was put up a notice and lock the door. During the short period when we could re-open only one of our regular hirers actually returned, although in a restricted way. We know that two groups who met weekly in the hall have folded up and some other groups have turned to Zoom as their norm. So reopening in 2021 will be somewhat of a challenge trying to fill the booking diary.

Sadly during the past year we said goodbye to Josie Nichol who had been the Produce Rep and Secretary for more than 20 years. She will be missed by the hall as well as other local organisations.

Lock-down has provided time for our Chair to look at all the hall's policies and procedures and our Health and Safety Policy and associated risk assessment for fire safety have been re written as well as revisions to our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

Achievements:

The trustees work hard to make the hall attractive to potential users and measure their success by the range of users and the hall occupancy.

During the last year we:

- Finished the small area of the Stubbs Lounge floor that needed repairing and completed the redecoration of the Stubbs Lounge and servery area.
- Replaced the lounge curtains with modern roller blinds
- Finished the upgrade to the PA system
- Redecorated and reorganised the chair store
- Deep cleaned the tables and blue fabric chairs
- Replaced the fluorescent tubes in the lounge and main hall for low energy LEDs

- Repaired the rear fire exit doors and fitted new handrails to the external steps
- Started to redecorate and deep clean the kitchen

During the last year we have NOT been able to:

- Continue with our monthly 'Film Nights' into their 13th year
- Continue with our monthly 'Community Café'
- Organise a special event to celebrate the hall's 70th anniversary in November 2020.

Reserves Policy

The charity has £ 6,080 in the bank as unrestricted reserves at the year end. This cash is available for unforeseen expenditure in relation to building maintenance or urgent furniture or equipment replacement. It is the Trustee's policy to maintain unrestricted reserves to cover a minimum of three months normal expenditure.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance of the Victory Hall and from time to time this involves major works far in excess of cash reserves held. On identifying such major works, fund raising is undertaken with the object of meeting the costs in full (ie without needing a loan). Such funds would be restricted. The 'Development Fund' currently stands at £ 10,000 of which £ 10,000 are Designated Funds.

Future Plans

The Trustees have already entered discussions with other groups in the community to explore the possibility of organising one or more joint activities based in the hall. The intention is to achieve both community benefit and fundraising for the hall development fund.

We hope that during the coming years we can:

- Finish the deep clean of the kitchen
- Recommence our monthly 'Film Nights' and 'Community Café'
- Install Broadband in the hall for the benefit of users and explore the possibility of a 'community cyber café' to offer assistance with modern day technology
- Build on our 'Development Fund'
- Review the existing stage lighting
- Undertake a building condition survey by a qualified surveyor
- Undertake an 'Energy Audit' to assess what improvements can be made as we are aware that the hall is less energy efficient than it might be
- Continue to promote spare capacity in the hall the Victory Hall website, social media, and the Parish Church magazine
- Look at a complete upgrade of the present kitchen and facilities

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Full name *Peter Roberts*

Position Chair

Date

12 April 2021