

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall

Registered Charity No 283279

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 24 October 2017 to 23 October 2018

Aim and Purposes

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall was conveyed by a Deed dated 10 December 1952 by Devon County Council held upon trust for the purposes of physical and mental training and recreational and social moral and intellectual development through the medium of reading and recreation rooms library lectures classes recreations and entertainments for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Sampford Courtenay and its immediate vicinity without distinction of sex or of political religious or other opinions.

Objectives and Activities

The Management Committee is charged with the maintenance and control of the Trust premises by means of fund-raising activities and income from the letting of the hall. Typical events during the year include monthly whist drives and bingo sessions, concerts, the annual dog show and car boot, the annual flower and produce show, quiz evenings, skittles matches and an open gardens day (the latter held jointly with the parochial church council). The hall is regularly let to the parish council for meetings, at which members of the parish can attend, and to private individuals for wedding receptions and parties.

A long-term objective is the improvement and extension of the hall facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of its users. Large projects have been funded from grants and the building-up of reserves: these include new chairs, improved space heating, heat-saving curtaining and, currently, the refurbishment of the kitchen and the committee room.

Achievements and Performance

The majority of the extension and refurbishment work was completed in the previous financial year. However, we aimed to carry out work to the car park to improve the entrance to the new extension to make it more accessible for wheelchair users. This work, together with improving the water main, was completed towards the end of this financial year and has greatly improved accessibility. The cladding was also completed by Mr Chapman, but we were awaiting the invoice at year end.

Improvements were also made to the guttering, which has improved the external appearance of the hall and the flow of the rain water!

Financial Review

The accounts have been audited. We began the year with £5637.04.

The income from hiring has increased by £634 (from £1460.60 to £2094.50). We have seen an increase in private hirings this year and with the continued use of the hall for table tennis and tap dance classes and the addition of yoga classes from mid May there has been a steady income throughout the year.

The income from the bingo actually increased this year to £825.83 (of this around £530 came from the Christmas and Easter bingos), but as attendance has dwindled the decision has been taken to stop the monthly sessions and just do the Easter and Christmas ones so we will see a reduced income next year. The income received from the whist has reduced to £268.39, but whilst there are still people who wish to attend and the three people that take it in turns to run it are happy to continue then we will keep it going a bit longer.

The big event this year was The Grand Fete, which did bring in the highest receipts of any event. This was a joint effort with St Andrew's Church and we are very grateful to them for all the work they put into the event and to Eleanor, Marlin and Chris for hosting it at Culverhayes. Sampford Courtenay Parish Council gave a grant of £500 (shared by the two organisations) and we wish to express our sincere thanks to them for their continued support.

It is heartening to see regular events (quizzes, dog show and skittles) still bringing in a good income and the Big Breakfast, which was a new event last year, improve and increase the income it generated.

We wish to thank the Flower and Produce Show committee for donating the £562 profit they made to the village hall.

We continue to retain the services of a cleaner, who does 2 hours a month. This together with a rota from committee members helps to keep the hall clean. The cleaner no longer wishes to receive payment by cheque so a standing order has been set up.

I am pleased to report that we have held some very successful music events at the hall. The Tedburn Community Choir and Diving for Pearls both being very profitable events.

Thanks must be expressed to Rosemary Lowe for her efforts with the 2018 calendar. All 100 were sold and brought in an income of £600.

The majority of the refurbishment costs have been paid over previous years. However, this year we carried out work on the guttering, which cost £527.99, and tarmacked the area around the new entrance to get it level for disabled access and parking. We also took the opportunity to improve the mains water pipe. This project cost £7584 and we are very grateful to James McInnes, County Councillor for the Hatherleigh and Chagford area, for his support from the Investing in Devon fund with a grant of £1000.

West Devon Borough Council did decide to give us discretionary relief this year so we did not have to pay a rates bill.

We paid out £594 for electric and receipts from the electric meters covered about half of this amount.

We received a loan from Mr. Squire in 2015 and we have been paying this off in instalments. As at the end of this financial year £1800 of the £3000 loan has been repaid.

We have made a deficit of £ 1439.76 this year and end the year with £4197.28, but we should bear in mind that we have undertaken some major work (i.e the tarmac and water main). It should be remembered that we are expecting an invoice for the completion of the extension (cladding etc) from Mr. Chapman. It is expected to be in the region of £500-£700, but as at year end the invoice had not been received. It is not yet an appropriate time to put some money in reserve in the fixed term deposit facility with Lloyds Bank, but once funds build up again then this will be something we will need to do to begin saving for the roof repairs.

Overall it has been a good year financially. Whilst we have made a deficit a major objective has been achieved and we end the year with a reasonably healthy bank balance.

Plans for the Future

The trustees intend to continue to provide the usual activities (with the exception of the monthly bingo) for the benefit of the community. The new kitchen is spacious and well equipped and we hope to at least maintain (hopefully improve) the level of bookings that we have achieved this year. The committee room has been more than doubled in size and will enable us to offer a facility for audio-visual events.

The fabric of the premises requires regular maintenance but surplus income will be put into our fixed-term facility at the bank for further improvements.

There have been signs of damp patches on the ceiling in the main hall and committee room so the next major work is expected to be the roof.

Structure, governance and management

The structure, governance and management of the hall is detailed in the Constitution adopted at the AGM in December 2016.

The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month.

Reference and administrative details

The current contact is Mrs Nicky Courage, Middletown Farmhouse, Sampford Courtenay, Okehampton, EX20 2SZ.

Email: nickyvhmc@gmail.com

The Charity's bank account is held at Lloyds Bank, Okehampton.

Approved by the Sampford Courtenay Village Hall Management Committee on

Date: 5th December 2018

