



Chair's Annual Report 2012 - 2013

Chair's Review Statement

The year has been one represented by embedding the development in the previous year and developing plans and approaches necessary to continue to improve and conserve the Parish Hall for use by future residents and sustain it for future generations.

During the year much has been achieved. The list below shows some of the different activities, developments and achievements during the year.

- i A detailed Improve and Conserve Plan has been developed, approved and supported by the community;
- ii There have been a number of successful fund-raising events and these have been well supported by volunteers and the community as a whole;
- iii A number of community volunteers have continued to make a significant and valuable contribution in support of different events and to help maintain the Hall;
- iv A Community Lunch has been introduced three times a year and has been well supported by the community.
- v A £4,000 grant from Devon County Council; a £1,000 grant from Friends of West Worlington Church and a £500 grant from East Worlington Parish Council have been secured;
- vi The Thatching Appeal, which provides an opportunity for donors to 'purchase' a thatching sheath for £5.00, was launched in June and this has proved to be a good way to raise funds for the re-thatching, especially with the Gift Aid contribution. During the year approximately 300 thatching sheaths have been purchased;
- vii Grant applications have been made to a range of potential funders and making grant applications continues to be a focus of activity;
- viii Further improvements have been made to the kitchen and it has resulted in better use.
- ix John Hockley, a long serving and committed member of the Committee, has decided to stand down from the Committee and notified the Members in March.
- x Emily Thomas left the Committee and Brian Edwards joined the Committee;
- xi The Parish Hall Newsletter has been produced and circulated every quarter and this has been a valuable method of helping the Parish Hall Committee share information with the community;
- xii The Parish Hall website has continued to be updated and continues to offer a good way to keep information about the Hall up-to-date;
- xiii The Parish Hall Welcome Pack continues to be given to new residents in the community, with ten packs being distributed during the year;
- xiv Regular (at meetings) reporting to the Parish Council has continued;
- xv Engagement with the Hallshare network to gain support and share practice from others involved in the management of community hall facilities in North Devon.

Chair's Statement

In my annual report 2012 I set myself three main targets.

- To bring together the different aspects of the project designed at achieving a solution to improve heating in the Hall;

There has been considerable work undertaken in developing the plan and details necessary to achieve a solution for improved heating. The different dimensions of the work have included design and building specifications, seeking planning consent, sourcing funding, meeting funder criteria and requirements, and ensuring the plans meet the support and approval of the community generally. It is important to recognise the contribution of Richard Boxall, Chartered Building Surveyor, who has volunteered his services and without his support the project could not have moved forward. While the heating is not yet in place the project is well advanced and essentially only requires the necessary funding.

- To further develop the function of the Hall as a Community Hub;

There has been a slow development of the function of the Parish Hall as a Community Hub. The concept has been shared with the community and there is support for this development. There have been some community-based events over the year including using the Hall during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, introducing community lunches, but there is still much more work to do to build further community needs-led facilities, services and activities. The further development is very much linked to the planned improvements to the Hall, especially heating.

- To increase greater participation of the community and especially young people in the running, development and use of the Hall.

While there has been a good start with this priority there is still much more work to do in the coming year. It is great when new members to the community show an active interest in the Parish Hall and when residents who have lived in the community for a longer period of time become interested and energised by some of our plans for future improvements and developments. It has not been possible during the year to create the best opportunities for children and younger people in the community to become more involved and this remains an ambition for the future.

It continues to be an honour to serve the community through this role and be in a privileged position of being able to influence and contribute actively the Parish Hall improvements, development and sustainability so that it can meet our community needs now and for future generations.

The year has provided me with a number of challenges, feelings of satisfaction and ambitions still to be achieved.

Challenges

The three main challenges have been to:

- maintain the momentum in creating the range of detailed plans the Parish Hall needs to make the necessary improvements;
- collate all the evidence and information necessary to make applications to grant funders and complete the applications of the different funders;
- keep up-to-date and well informed about all the statutory requirements and best practices necessary to run a Parish Hall.

Satisfactions

The three things that have brought me most satisfaction over this year are:

- the use of the Hall for community events during 2012 including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee; the Church Fete; Community Lunches; Devon Art Trek; the Harvest Supper; etc.;
- the great response and support from the community in attending the social and information event we organised to share information about the Parish Hall plans to Improve and Conserve;
- to have extended my personal knowledge and skills in making grant applications.

Objectives

If I am elected as Chair for the forthcoming year, in addition to the on-going work associated with managing the Parish Hall, the three main objectives I am setting for myself are to:

- secure funding for the Parish Hall Improve and Conserve Plans
- further develop the Community Hub and Heritage Hub approaches to the future use of the Hall
- continue to increase community engagement and participation in the Parish Hall and community events and services, especially children and younger people.

Steve Baber, Chair East Worlington Parish Hall Management Committee, May 2013