

RIVERSIDE HALL NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

There have been some changes in our trustee membership recently. We began the year with 8 trustees. During the year Jacqui Simmons resigned and the resulting vacancy was filled by Daniel Stephenson. Our Treasurer of 10 years (Sue Lee) will be stepping down from the role in the autumn and David Botsford has recently joined the committee with a view to taking over as treasurer. The trustees have continued to fund raise, carry out administration, secretarial and financial duties as well as maintaining the building to keep it in good order.

Our main aim throughout 2017 continued to be the improvement of the building both internally and externally, so that the people of Bampton and surrounding areas can continue to use it all year round and also helps to attract new hirers

During 2017 the following work was carried out -

- The repair of the flat roof with a 10-year guarantee
- The redecoration of the main hall, ladies and gent's toilets and vestibule
- Replacement of the high level windows in the main hall with UPVC sealed units. Special "cassette" blinds were fitted to block out light for the films and other performances.
- Purchase of new crockery for events where food is served, and glassware for the bar
- New flooring in the vestibule and ladies toilets
- Short term refurbishment of the side extension to provide improved bar and green room facilities for the Players (pending bigger scheme, see later). Bar reopening by 15th July. For this we owe many thanks to two of our trustees, Eric Woodbine and Daniel Stephenson, who laboured long and hard to produce a much more attractive and usable space.

We received a grant from a local group that had closed some time ago, and donated its remaining funds to be split between community groups in Bampton. This enabled us to get the roof repaired ahead of schedule. We also owe thanks to the Town Council for their grants and to an anonymous donor for £1000. We ended the financial year solvent with £2735 in the bank for everyday running costs and £7012.14 earmarked funds for specific planned future projects.

A Local Giving fund raising campaign which began towards the end of 2016 continued through 2017. Our annual fund-raising cafes during Springfest and Bampton Charter Fair raised useful amounts. We began to hold what we hope will be quarterly music-and-food fund-raising events bringing musicians and artists to perform. We began with a very successful performance of "Double Dickens" in January, a Flamenco Evening in early December followed by a Folk Night in April. A Medieval Banquet is planned for 21st July 2018.

The Riverside Cinema continued with a broad selection of up to date films each month. We have decided to increase the ticket price from £4.50 to £5, to take effect shortly. We continue to provide the venue for the Bampton Players' regular programme of plays and pantomime and for large scale events organised by Bampton in Bloom and Exmoor Rotary, and private parties. Our regular hirers continue to use the hall for Bingo, Rifle Club and Ladies Group meetings and we have also been encouraged to see new hirers come and use our much improved facilities.

The Riverside car park is available to the general public on the basis of a donation of 50p per visit in the honesty box. We know that there is a core of people who also use it to park their vehicles overnight (a recent census suggests 12+) and we are offering these people the alternative of single payments for this use rather than having to find cash donations each time they visit.

We have been working up a planning application to rebuild the side extension and install a staircase to the upper floor, thus allowing the slippery outside staircase to the Albert Fowler room at the front of the building to be removed. We expect to be seeking planning permission shortly – and then to start fundraising! More in later newsletters