



STEVENTON VILLAGE HALL

REPORT TO THE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2010

The Village Hall is a very important part of the Village and this report aims to give a picture of its present financial position and how the future looks.

Each year there is a National Survey of Village Halls in the UK and the position of the hall is compared with the findings of the 2009 Survey.

The aim of the Village Hall Committee is to provide the best hall in the area for the benefit of the people of Steventon and the local community, with the best facilities and the highest quality of decoration. The importance of this is shown in the 2009 Survey where it is reported that most halls that are losing income are doing so because of what they provide and not because of a lack of demand. If people do not like a hall they go elsewhere and so starts a downward spiral due to lack of income.

The 2009 survey showed that 54% of halls do not have an income sufficient to generate a reserve or carry out enhancements and hence are not viable without subsidies from say the Parish Council. Your hall had an income of £30,766 to the end of March and currently has a reserve of about £15,000.

Just keeping the hall in existence by paying utility bills, insurances, licences and cleaning costs results in a bill of nearly £18,000 per year. In addition to these costs there are those associated with re-decoration [which because of the high level of usage is required every three years], treating the Main Hall dance floor and general maintenance. More major maintenance work will be required in the foreseeable future such as the replacement of the central heating boilers, new floor coverings etc. All these costs have been put into an eight year plan which shows the hall will remain, as far as can be seen, financially viable over this timescale and beyond. The 2009 Survey shows that only 38% of halls have any form of future plan.

During the year to the end of March a significant amount of work has been carried out to maintain the quality of the hall and enhance the facilities provided. These items include re-decoration, treatment of the Main Hall floor, kitchen refurbishment and the completion of the work to improve the stage area and stage lighting. It is worth noting that the sprung dance floor in the Main Hall is a significant asset and that 28% of the total income is associated with dancing of one form or another.

The 2009 survey considers the value of volunteer effort put into halls. Even at minimum wage rates this amounts to about £8,000 per year for a hall the size of Steventon's. Such a figure has a very real impact on what can be done in the way of enhancing the facilities for the benefit of everyone. With [dare I say it] an ageing Committee more involvement from other members of the Village is sought and is important if the hall is to continue to be successful. For instance it is now three years since our Chairman said he wished to step down, but there have been no volunteers for his replacement.

The Millennium Room generated 30% of the total income, thus well justifying building it. About 66% of the bookings were from village residents, generating 51% of the total income. Though some regular bookings are lost each year new ones have continued to come along. Regular bookings now give about 68% of the income and hence give a sound basis for future planning.

The Accounts for 2009/10 have been audited and I have a copy if anyone wishes to see the Balance Sheet. If you do you will note a debtors figure of £1,355, this is all in respect of regular hirers for March and was never at risk, in fact it has all now been paid and banked.

In conclusion the Committee is pleased to report that the Hall is in a good financial position and is predicted to remain so for at least the next eight years, whereas the 2009 Survey shows that 32% of halls are not financially viable even over the next five years. However, the Committee would like more volunteers to help with the large amount of work involved with the hall, so please consider volunteering.

Steventon Village Hall Committee,

30th April 2010.