

Goss Croft Hall - Chairman's Report AGM 2019

Again, I am pleased to report that the Hall continues to operate in a sustainable and trouble-free way, meeting our financial objectives and managerial obligations.

However, despite continuing to attract positive reviews and comment from users, bookings remain about the same and show little sign of overall increase despite being much spare capacity. Probably not a surprise as we operate in a lightly populated rural area.

The Hall remains in excellent condition thanks to diligent maintenance by our dedicated volunteers and part time help, all who put in a lot of work and are relied on to ensure the smooth running of day to day activities. This leaves the Trustees to meet once every two months to oversee administration and deal with principle decisions and any matters referred to them. They are of course responsible for managing any development activities that are seen as needed from time to time.

During the year it was decided to put a hold on progress towards extending the Jubilee room and side store. This resulted from two factors, firstly the need to raise further funds as costs could not be met by existing funds and the fact that it was established that we were not entitled for the work to be zero rated for VAT as had been hoped. Secondly, there is a growing recognition for a need for recruiting new Trustees more able to push forward with such a project, which is likely to be a two year timescale.

The essence of the problem is that some of the long-standing Trustees are in their late 60s or 70s (including myself). Many have been involved both with the new Hall and previously with its predecessor the old Seagry & Startley Hall. While very proud of what has been achieved for our communities, some have been Trustees for over 25 years with Margret Collins a remarkable 40 + years. It has been agreed that such a project will be best served with some fresh team members able to add more energy and ambition.

We are therefore beginning our appeal for others to become Trustees to Join our two latest members, Meriel Griffiths and Sarah Binstead; Sarah volunteered to joined as the representative for Gt Somerford PC. If any one is interested in joining our trustee team then we would be delighted to hear from you. I am sure our existing members would agree it is not an arduous role.

Last year saw the retirement of Tony Kay as Trustee, recently responsible for PR, and we extend our thanks and appreciation not only for all his efforts in that role but for all his longstanding support in the past. If anyone is interested in joining our trustee team then we would be delighted to hear from you

Finally, I am delighted to report that following a very generous legacy from the late John Ward, ex of Lower Seagry, we are about to have installed a Hearing Loop for those with appropriate hearing aids, a facility that further adds to our attempts to be as inclusive as possible.

Ian Blackmore
Chair GC

