

Yorkley Recreation Centre

Chairman's Report

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome.

Another year over and we are still going strong but we don't seem to have achieved as much as we did last year 2008. But I would like to stress that this is not for the want of trying.

2009 once again was a difficult year but as you can see by the Treasurer's Report we have kept our heads above water, but our overheads still seem to increase.

We tried to arrange a function every month as you head from the Secretary, and tried out some new things, a Ceilidh, a play Dark Tales of Gloucester, a Harvest Supper and Christmas Concert with Forest Brass. But we still seem to lack local support. What must we do to get the locals in?

During the year we seemed to make our friendship with Forest Brass stronger I am pleased to report.

In closing I would like to thank: Our Secretary Ann Hibberd for all her hard work, Ann's husband John for all he has done to keep repairs up to date. David Harris started the year as Treasurer, but due to pressure of work, stepped down. June Pugh took over and is doing a good job. I would also like to thank Don Pugh for arranging the events.

Paul Brice and David Harris for getting "What's On" in Yorkley out. And all other members of the committee for their hard work, especially Kim Cobbold who is always here to help, whatever we do.

Mr President I thank you for the support you and all the members of the Committee have given me and I am prepared to stand again.

Good luck to 2010 let's hope for a successful year and future.

Yorkley Village Hall & Recreation Centre

Annual General Meeting

1 March 2010

Secretary's Report

It has been a very difficult year for the Committee. Some problems with the building we had thought were fixed came back to bite us. The roof did not get repainted but the flat roof which sprung a very serious leak did get professionally repaired and so far has held up.

This meant we had to continue to fire fight problems with the building and delay upgrading.

Despite our efforts with fund raising the weather seemed to be against us. Our major fund raiser, the Festival suffered as a result of the weather and although we did not make a loss, we did not make the profit we had hoped for. However, our thanks to all who came through the wet weather to the hall for the Proms on the Saturday evening. The opening of the Festival by Baroness Royall and entertainment by Dick Brice was successful. The Tree Gazing session during the Festival was also well supported and enjoyed by all who went despite it being so very wet underfoot and Averil Kear' superb presentation of "Outrage in the Forest" was a real hit.

Some events during the year to try and ring the changes, Banshee and Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company - were enjoyed by all who attended but not well supported. The same with the Quiz organised by Stan Baxter, more people attending would have made a lot of difference. The Christmas Music and Carol Concert again was not as well supported as last year – no real reason why has been forthcoming. The Christmas Party also fell short.

However we did have some successes. Our tree planting to commemorate the Centenary of Yorkley School was a great success and the sight of the whole school and nursery school coming up the hill to the hall will, I suspect, remain with people for a long time.

We lost people from the Committee during the year, and despite our best efforts cannot seem to attract more helpers. We have lost Iris but she now has a full time job and will help as, and when she can. There was no response to the offer of electronically sending the "What's On", and no offers of help received from the village when we advertised in What's On recently.

We have attended a number of meetings this year organised by the GRCC and Playing Fields Association. It seems that applying for Grants may require us to formally attend all training sessions etc., that are offered through the GRCC. We have attended everything offered this year but without more people joining us it is going to put a strain on the remainder of the Committee.

However, we do have some good things to reflect on:

Our bookings are up on last year now that the word is getting round that the hall is "user friendly" again. However there is still work to do, which John will report on.

A new and we hope permanent feature of our programme is the Forest Brass Harvest Supper and Auction. Something that I hope will continue and prove profitable to both organisations.

The Yorkley Bookery has become firmly established as part of the Saturday Sale and David is saving the takings towards the window fund. As we achieve sufficient a window will be replaced. David and Marjorie have been the backbone of the Saturday Sales ably assisted by Mary and Kim and we extend our thanks to them.

It must also be recognised that David and Marjorie have become pretty much the hall caretakers in that they frequently avail themselves of the mop and bucket and keep the place clean. Once again we extend our thanks to them.

We have strengthened ties between Forest Brass and ourselves – a pairing, which I think, has served both parties well.

Our Annual Remembrance Day Service was extremely well attended this year and the Air Cadets and Forest Brass added much to the Service

The Harvey Society has been launched off the bat of the Festival and we are hoping that this year they will help to form part of the 2010 Festival.

The Viney Hill Open Group very kindly made the Hall one of their supported charities last year and we were delighted to receive £450 at Christmas, together with an unexpected donation from Ray and Ying Boycott as a result of their Chinese New Year's Party.

The local businesses are also supportive and the Post Office in particular operates a very handy box office for us. We extend our thanks to Sue and Bob and their staff.

We have been fortunate in gaining the support of our local Councillors Keith Aburrow and Frankie Evans. Keith has been unwell this year but Frankie frequently attends our meetings and some of our events and her advise and support has been very gratefully received. Mark Harper has found room in his schedule for us on a couple of occasions this year, to the extent of "juggling" his diary to fit us in. We are also particularly grateful to Baroness Jan Royall who found time in a very busy week to come and open our Festival. So..... not all bad then!

YORKLEY RECREATION CENTRE
Balance sheet to 28 February 2010

Balance B/f		£1,940.56
Table Sale 6 Feb.		£62.80
Donation: M/M Boycott collection @ Chinese New Year Party		£53.00
TOTAL		£2,056.36
Less Debits		£191.70
Bank Bal. C/f		£1,864.66
Savings A/c	£1,118.38	
Donation Viney Hill Church	£450.00	£1,568.38
Cash in Hand	£67.70	
Less D Harris	£27.98	£39.72
TOTAL MONIES HELD TO DATE		£3,472.76

D Halford (Comm. Ironwork)	£120.00
FVAF	£60.00
J.Hibberd (Works Spend)	£11.70
	£191.70
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£191.70

Works Report for 2009/2010

AGM 1st March 2010

Total spend for year of £909.91.

Principal items: Flat roof repaired, extra heating installed, fence repaired and commemorative tree purchased and protective ironwork installed. Also includes £68.74 for operational sundries such as paper towels, toilet rolls etc.

I believe that the letting figures for the past year demonstrate that we are well on the way to meeting our aims of making the hall a more attractive venue, thus enabling its continuing use. This, as we have already identified, will be one of the key enablers in any successful application for grant monies towards a new build.

I know that upgrading the kitchen is a very real need, and whatever else happens we must look at getting a separate handwashing sink. However the cold winter this year has identified that despite the extra heating, it is still not possible to achieve a satisfactory temperature during cold weather and no matter how good the kitchen, people will still not come if it is too cold to be comfortable.

Replacement of windows is the ultimate aim, but in the meantime attention to draught proofing will help.

Monthly recorded inspection (we must do them) of both hall and recreation ground are now carried out as recommended by the playing fields association to offset vulnerability to compensation as a result of litigation.

The skate park and play equipment are our most likely source of problems in this area. The original contract for annual skate park inspection has been cancelled as investigation of other sources identified it as exorbitantly expensive. I have arranged an inspection for this year that will cost in the region of £60.

I believe that for future years we should sign up to the ROSPA annual inspection scheme. This is the system of annual inspections of play areas with up to five items for an annual fee of £63. Inspections are carried out in a designated month on a county-by-county basis. As the month for Gloucestershire is April, it is possibly too late for this year. But, as I do not yet have a firm date for this year's inspection, if the committee is willing I will try and if successful cancel the booking already made. (A vote proposed by David Harris and seconded by Don Pugh was passed).

In summary, we have made good progress but now have some serious decision to make.

John Hibberd