

The Friends of the Moot Hall Organ

Chair's Report 31st March 2025

Sadly this is a very brief Report. The repairs to the Moot Hall ceiling proceeded slowly at first then, once the scaffolding, which filled the hall like a spider's web, was installed early in 2025 it all speeded up. I was a little disappointed that there was a failure to keep The Friends informed regarding the timetable and, indeed, the protection afforded to the organ itself. The initial promise to seek advice from Harrison & Harrison on the latter fell by the wayside as fresh project leads took over. Eventually in the autumn it was agreed that an H&H tuner would be allowed in, who reported that it was in fine fettle, so my worries were unfounded! A subsequent visit in February also showed that there were no basic issues with the organ, virtually two years after the hall was closed. Later in March Michael Vernon and I were allowed in to see how it was faring; and it was again in an acceptable condition.

That's the organ! 'The Friends' organisation has obviously been in a similar state, that is to say just ticking over. Despite my strenuous efforts, including advertising on a local charities organisation website, we are still without a treasurer. I had picked up the reins and claimed Gift Aid from HMRC for the three previous tax years amounting to £2522.31 and in December we opened an interest paying account at the Co-op Bank with a deposit of £8000.

The Trustees decided late in 2024 that we would revamp the website. It was nearly four years old and needed a refresh. We agreed to ask Stonehouse Communications, who created the current site, for a quotation which was £1104 inc VAT. This work is underway.

I have endeavoured to keep the members up to date through the year via emails and we also have a number of supporters that receive emailed news too.

I wrote in last year's Report that the City Council were undertaking a review of their assets and wondered where that would take us. We did not have an answer in this year but will undoubtedly hear more about it in 2025-6.

Finally may I thank my fellow trustees for their advice and encouragement and you all for your stalwart support in these challenging times.

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Financial Report 28/2/25

Income

Balance b/f 31 st March 2024	£	5817 - 35
PLUS Subscriptions/Donations		610 - 00
HMRC Gift Aid 2021-2		889 - 94
2022-3		1342 - 76
2023-4		289 - 61

£ 8949 - 66

Less Expenditure

Website Fees	360 - 00	
Expenses (re 23-4)	<u>63 - 00</u>	423 - 00

Bank A/c £8000 Invested
52666 Current A/c

£ 8526 - 66