

The Sir Robert Geffery Memorial Hall Annual report to the Parish Council Annual
Public meeting

14th May 2025

Annual report by the hall committee chairman Mervyn Gingell at the Parish Council Annual Public meeting held on the 20th May 2024, in the Sir Robert Geffery Memorial Hall.

We have been operating as a committee now for nearly Four years since taking on the management of the hall, after the COVID epidemic and getting the hall into operation to the public again.

This year from May 2024 to May 2025, we have made good progress during the year with the Hall committee working together very hard to establish the Hall as a community asset, by keeping the hall hiring fee as affordable to the community as possible to encourage more use of the hall for sports events, parties, regular club activities like badminton Short Matt bowls, Young Farmer club activities, general meeting events for members of the public for coffee mornings, craft workshops and of course the library with its own coffee morning. A regular community lunch is cooked and provided on the premises for the community at a very affordable price for everyone on the second Tuesday of every month.

Recently we have welcomed a new group called Battling on into the hall on a regular weekly basis, this is a group of ex-military servicemen, who are supported by a specialist team to help them overcome various mental and physical issues. They use all three rooms and the kitchen of the hall, undertaking things like Cooking classes, Darts, Computer learning, building a Railway modelling system, and in the hall library will undertake private support meetings with counselling on a one to one basis. This group has also started supporting the Hall by organising BBQ sessions with public events.

The local village pub, The Bullers Arms has reopened in the last year after being closed for two year, although this is generally a good thing for the village, it has greatly affected the Sir Robet Geffery Memorial Hall's progression through the competition from the Bullers Arms on events that we as a Hall were undertaking, such as the regular monthly Quiz nights, the Sunday afternoon music concerts, The Bullers arms are now providing these items regularly with free entry to all, so we have had to stop undertaking the Sunday afternoon concerts as the musicians cast between £200 to £500 to book.

Tasks that we have undertaken in the last twelve months to ensure that the Hall is suitably safe and welcoming to all ages of our community are as listed –

We have applied for various grants to try and raise funding to help with the integration of The Soloman Browne room into the Sir Robert Geffery Memorial Hall, making grant applications to the Clair Milne Trust, The Cornwall community Trust fund, The Cornwall Levelling up grant stage 3 government fund and the National Lottery, but unfortunately none of these applications were successful. This was a huge disappointment for all the committee, however now that we have successfully obtained the planning permission, and the solicitors have overcome the legal difficulties and the Soloman Browne room building being transferred to the Hall management committee. As the planning permission is set for the work to be undertaken in a three-year period, with the Hall committee

looking at other funding avenues for grants to assist with this work, and the Hall committee undertaking various other functions in the hall to help raise extra revenue to help aid the development and integration of the two buildings during this three-year period. We have agreed to break down the building task into small affordable sections to enable us to be able to move forward as and when finances allow rather than trying to complete the work as a large project.

Use of Local volunteer building contractors where possible have been involved in replacing and refixing slates on the main Hall roof, undertaking electrical installations and repairs, plumbing and heating issues. Also, the hall fire alarms are tested by a fire alarm specialist every six months, and the fire extinguishers are tested every year.

The defibrillator is on the outside wall of the Hall for suitable access by the members of the public when required in an emergency, and is connected by the Hall Wi-Fi system, and is maintained and checked weekly.

We have made significant improvements to the halls ageing gas central heating boiler, fitted it with a new pump and a valve system which will now work 3 different heating systems including the main hall, the annex, and the Solomon Browne room, either individually or altogether when needed, and added the new radiators to the Solomon Browne room in readiness for its opening.

We have completed the Solar Panel erection on the Annex roof and with a suitable intelligent solar powered battery storage system that will allow us to store energy from our overnight cheaper electric tariff to use cheaper stored electricity during the daytime openings of the hall during the winter months, and to enable us to maximise the use of the solar panels to be able to hopefully sell our excess electricity to a electricity company, although this is proving difficult to get a company to buy our excess electricity at the moment, but will keep trying with other electricity companies.

Aims and Objectives for the next 12 months

To continue to advertise and get the hall fully used as much as possible, whilst maintaining current hire charges as possible.

To make a start on the integration of the Solomon Browne room into the Hall in the next Twelve months, hopefully starting work in Feb 2026 with a major effort being made to get the footings excavated for the new outside alterations of the warm roof sunroom connecting development, the new addition storeroom and the new disabled toilet all started and up to damp proof layer stage to ensure that the developments are completed in line with our planning permission which have eighteen months of planning permission left.

Ensure we continue to update and maintain the hall to ensure it is decorated and in suitable condition both inside and outside.

Hopefully we will be able to rebuild the back wall by the annex with cement and stone vertically to enable us to have a 300-millimetre wider footpath at the bottom of the wall so as to allow easier and safer wheelchair access for members of the community to the back patio courtyard.

I fully appreciate the very hard work that the hall committee has undertaken for the hall's progression during the last year, and I am looking forward to undertaking our aims and objectives as a committee over the next 12 months.

Thank you very much to everyone on the hall committee, and to the volunteers from the community who have been such a great support and help during the last Twelve months

Mervyn Gingell Chairman of the Sir Robert Geffery Hall committee.

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