

**SWANLAND VILLAGE HALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 19 JULY 2012**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I was elected as Chairman of the Village Hall at the Annual General Meeting on 26 July 2011 and this is my first Chairman's Report

The past year

I am pleased to be able to report that the hall has had another successful year. Bookings of the hall have continued at a high level, from both residents of Swanland, and from elsewhere. The facilities of the hall are of a very high quality and continue to attract hirers to use what is probably the best public hall in the area.

During the past year we have seen an increase in the number of wedding receptions being held in the hall. Our excellent rooms and facilities provide an attractive and very satisfactory venue for such events. Forward bookings for weddings are encouraging.

As will be seen from the accounts, the finances of the hall continue to be very satisfactory. A net income of £8,677 was achieved in the year ended 31 December 2011. The treasurer, Mark Hazard, will give further details when he presents the Annual Report and Accounts later in the meeting.

Board of trustees

There have been a number of changes to the board of trustees during the year. Our long standing treasurer, John White, retired as treasurer and as a trustee on 31 January 2012. John had been our treasurer ever since the hall opened and I would like to thank him for his dedication to the hall and his very valuable work during his time as a trustee and treasurer.

John White has been replaced as a trustee and as treasurer by Mark Hazard. Mark, who is originally from the north east, is a Chartered Management Accountant. He has lived in the village for a number of years and is doing an excellent job. I welcome Mark to the board of trustees.

Earlier this year another long standing, founding trustee, our secretary, Ian Macfarlane, indicated his intention to retire at the annual general meeting this year. Ian has been a very valuable member of the board of trustees ever since the hall opened and he will be missed. I thank Ian for his dedication to the hall and his excellent work during his time as a trustee, as minute secretary and, latterly, as secretary.

Ian Macfarlane has been replaced as a trustee by Michelle Pollard. Michelle, who is originally from the midlands, has lived in the village for a number of years. She will be taking over as secretary at the meeting of the board of trustees which follows the annual general meeting. I welcome Michelle to the board of trustees.

We have also been fortunate in recruiting a third new trustee this year. Jan Rogerson, the former Chairman of the SVA and well known in the village, has also joined us. Jan has assumed responsibility for security, health and safety and fire precautions. I welcome Jan to the board of trustees.

Lease

The freehold of the hall is owned by Swanland Parish Council. The Parish Council leases the hall to the Trustees of Swanland Village Hall. The original seven year lease of the hall expired in January this year. We have negotiated with the Parish Council and have entered into a new 21 year lease which gives long-term security of tenure for the hall.

The lease from the hall to East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the public library expired at the same time as the main lease. We have negotiated with the Council and have entered into a new long term lease with them which secures the future of the library in the village.

PV Panels

After a lengthy and rather tedious application process, we received planning permission to install an array of pv panels on the roof of the hall. These were brought into use in September 2011 and are now generating electricity every day. We confidently expect that there will be a substantial financial benefit to the hall from a reduction in the cost of electricity and also from the sale of surplus power to the National Grid. The panels are also helping us to reduce our carbon footprint.

We have installed a monitor in the corridor leading to the public library. The monitor shows the electricity being generated at any time, the amount generated to date and the amount of CO2 emissions saved.

Marketing

We have recently produced a marketing leaflet for the hall. A copy of the leaflet has been distributed to all households in the village and further copies can be obtained from the hall and from the library. I am pleased that the Swanland Village Association has agreed to distribute a copy of the leaflet with the "welcome packs" that are distributed to new residents of the village. I thank the SVA for this.

Working parties

During the year we have continued to hold regular working parties at which trustees and other volunteers carry out care and maintenance jobs on the hall. Volunteers are always welcome on these occasions.

Table-top sale

We recently held a successful table-top sale in the hall. This function served two purposes, firstly, as a fund-raising event and, secondly, as an opportunity to show the residents of the village what the hall has to offer and for them to meet the trustees.

The future

We are fortunate in having an enthusiastic and dedicated team of trustees who work tirelessly for the good of the village hall and thus serve the residents of the village.

The trustees will continue to manage the village hall for the benefit of all inhabitants of Swanland. We are always on the lookout for new trustees and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who feels that they would like to be considered for appointment as a trustee.

Godfrey Burley
Chairman
19 July 2012