

Cavendish Hall Chairman's report 2010

The beginning of 2010 presents us with some challenges. We ended 2009 with a deficit incurred by the remediation (Needhams) of the warped floor in the hall which had to be paid for with a transfer from our modest reserves and already in 2010 we can see that our expenditure is exceeding our income necessitating the raising of hiring fees again and the possibility of having to fund raise to keep the hall viable.

Hanging over us is the possibility that the Thurston Under Fives will move to a building they are hoping to erect adjacent to the hall on land held in trust by the Parish Council and this will further impair our ability to remain attractive to hirers as it will put even further pressure on the already inadequate car park which we have to rent, as well as seriously deplete our revenue.

Utility bills have increased exponentially despite our usage remaining fairly stable over the past few years.

Our priority has always been to keep the hall looking well kept and inviting for prospective hirers and to this end we had the lower half of the main hall redecorated last summer by Richard Webster.

Steve Fordham, electrician, has also done sterling work for us this year by replacing the strip lights in the main hall assisted by Barry Service who kindly volunteered to help him as a "tower" was involved. More recently Steve has put a new movement sensitive light at the top of the steps at the rear of the building to enable people to negotiate the steps safely after dark and in the event of having to evacuate the building in an emergency. He also replaced some of the faulty fire exit lights in the hall to comply with H&S regulations.

Unfortunately we were not able to afford to have the hall floor sanded and resealed as we had hoped.

It is a great pity that there are so few people interested in helping to manage the hall despite the huge numbers of people young and old who use it each week and it looks like we shall need all the help we can get in the coming year. However as always I am eternally grateful to our treasurer, our booking secretary and members of the committee who faithfully keep us going. Special thanks to Vicky Pryke who spent many hours cleaning the kitchen during the summer on more than one occasion beyond the call of duty.

