

Henry Samuel Hall Newsletter

Autumn 2021



Dear residents of the Maylands and beyond.

I am writing this newsletter whilst sitting inside the main hall. The curtains are open letting in the evening sunshine and the open doors are letting in a gentle breeze. The clock on the wall has stopped at 6.07 and it looks as if the hall is set in aspic, has not changed for many many years and will remain this way for many years to come!

However let me tell you this is far from the case! In fact I am waiting here to meet up with the working party to look and discuss what we are doing next and how we are going to move forward.

So what has the new Hall Management Committee done so far? Before Covid we had lots and lots of meetings, held some fund raising events, had a change of chairperson. 3 times! Then the pandemic hit but we delivered a questionnaire, continued our meetings on Zoom and opened up a dialogue with our sole trustees, the Parish Council as to the way forward for the hall.

Also during this time we looked at the results of the questionnaire. It was a bit like the Brexit referendum, too close to call and to be honest we probably did not ask the correct questions.

Then it happened..... Restrictions eased and we had our first meeting back in the hall for a long time!

It was a EUREKA moment because all those of us who doubted whether it was worth carrying on with the hall and I for one was one of those, looked at each other and we all agreed and said.....

“We must SAVE this hall.”

So what have we done so far.....

Shopped around for quotes on renewing windows, guttering, soffits.

More quotes for repairing the front of the hall and new cladding to make it look smart and watertight.

We have repaired and made good the existing toilets.
Tidied up the front car park area and trimmed the bushes.
Gradually working on clearing up the car park.
Had electrical items tested.
Removed unsightly cupboards from the inner hall.
Painted the car park gate.
Repaired fire doors so they open properly.
Put up outside lighting.
Fire extinguishers checked and refilled.
Cleared attic and removed “junk” from the hall to the tip.
Finally we have cleaned, cleaned and cleaned again.

The Committee and volunteers have worked incredibly hard over the past few months but there is still loads to do.

Replace broken and rotted floorboards, painting inside and out, more clearing outside and sheds to sort. To list but a few.

So what of the future?

Apart from the ongoing work to simply keep this hall going and improving we are still fund raising. Watch out for notices about new events. Also may we say a big THANK YOU to all of you that have supported our events over the past couple of years. That money just over £7000 at present is in the bank ready to fund some of our smaller projects.

We did get an architect in to look at ways to change the hall but the money for these schemes is probably way beyond our remit at the moment. We are however looking at grants and at plans to improve the hall; changing the toilet layout and also putting in a disabled one, easier movement and space around the kitchen area, smaller meeting room, among other ideas. All of which will finally have to be ratified by the Parish Council our Sole Trustees.

There you have it. The working party are arriving and who knows what suggestions will come next but we are an enthusiastic bunch and here's hoping that in the next couple of years we can deliver a hall that is back to its former glory and is also much improved. A hall that we as a village can be proud of and one that can last another 100 years.

I will keep you posted.

Yours sincerely
Mel Clarke, Chair

Written on behalf of all the Henry Samuel Hall Management Committee,
the Working Party and all of our Volunteers.