

Rowledge Village Hall



The main hall constructed in 1914 celebrated its centenary this year.

Newsletter - Winter 2014

We have delayed the annual newsletter this year to give us the opportunity to look back over the whole centenary year. We hope that everyone finds the information in this Newsletter interesting and informative, please share it with others. We can always use more volunteers to help organise or run events, please remember that if you live in Rowledge then it is **Your** hall and it relies on volunteers to run it and everyone to use it.

1. Centenary Year

A number of events were organised and all were well supported and there were requests for many of them to be repeated in the future. One such was our first **Beetle Drive** which as hoped was attended by players from 8 to 80, a real community evening and a second Beetle Drive is envisaged.

Another event that was organised for the first time that is now likely to become an annual event was a performance by **The Rude Mechanical Theatre** at St James' school. Unfortunately after three weeks without rain the heavens opened just two hours before the performance. However, like true professionals the spirit of 'the show must go on' was followed and the performance was transferred into the school hall and the audience of 120 just managed to squeeze in. In response to popular demand The Rude Mechanicals will return on Thursday 25 June 2015.

Early in May the hall was once again transformed into a 90 seat restaurant for the **Centenary Lunch** as it had been for the jubilee two years earlier. Once again sponsorship was obtained and the lunch was again free for all who were allocated a seat. An excellent three course meal was served with wine and coffee, entertainment was provided by a local ukulele group and the whole event was as successful as the jubilee lunch had been.



The large hall transformed for the Centenary Lunch

In September Happy's Circus returned to Rowledge recreation ground for an event organised in combination with Rowledge Cricket Club. Once again it was two years since the previous event and expectations ran high. This time the weather was on our side and a fantastic afternoon was had by all 600 who were in the big top plus the large number of people who came to pass the afternoon at Coffee Spot and the Cricket Club bar and bar-b-q. The event proved to be even more successful than the previous one.

Also in September The Big Meet (Village Hall Autumn Fair + Flower & Produce Show) enjoyed good weather and made a record sum for hall funds. Pleasingly people now spend much more time at the event taking the opportunity to enjoy morning coffee and/or lunch and meet up with village friends.

The outcome of these events together with continued support of 100 Club the success of Coffee Spot and appreciation of our investments means that the funds available for a future hall grew by well over £30,000 to nearly £170,000.

2. The committee

At the General Meeting in March Phil Thomas, Ken Bone and John Titmuss all announced that they would be retiring as Trustees at the end of 2014 after nearly six years of service. Since then we have been recruiting new Trustees and are delighted that Charles Bolton, Mike Naylor and Jim Duffy have volunteered to fill these vacancies. In fact Mike took over the role of Treasurer from Ken in the summer and now someone is needed to take over the Chairperson's role from Phil. Both Phil and Ken will stay actively involved as 'friends of the hall' supporting Liz & Jan at Coffee Spot and running the 100 Club respectively.

We have also been successful in recruiting Karen Fewster on to the committee as Secretary and she is already getting actively involved and has set up our Facebook page (see later).

Our two existing committee members, Jo Walker (events) and Robin Young (maintenance) are now also retiring and we are still looking for replacements for these roles. If you would like to get involved then please make contact with any committee member, current or retiring.

One further change is that Beth Tuppen is handing over her Bookings Secretary role (one-off bookings) to Lizzie Lunn with effect from early in 2015.

A big 'Thank you' to all those who have volunteered to become formally involved, we are sure that fresh blood will be valuable in taking the hall forward and the village survey will hopefully give them a basis for making further changes.

3. The building.....No major maintenance expenses were incurred in 2014 or projects undertaken, allowing us to keep increasing the fund for a future hall. However, the heavy rain in February found nine different ways of entering the building although fortunately it appears that the unusual direction of the wind at the time led to this large problem as subsequent rain has only created occasional leaks. The roof and the high level windows continue to cause us concern.

Another problem caused by water was the collapse of the floor in the gentlemen's toilet where the rotten wooden beams were replaced with a concrete floor. The excavation gave us the opportunity to confirm the lightweight nature of the 'foundations' of the hall.

During the summer holidays the painting working group gave the inside of the hall its annual refresher, it is amazing how much can be achieved in half a day by eight keen helpers! Thanks to Graham, Grahame, Bob, Richard, Robin and Ken.

As the hall celebrates its centenary it seemed appropriate to organise a survey of all its owners (i.e. every Rowledge resident) and users to get their views about a future hall. This was being carried out as this Newsletter is being written and the results will be available early in 2015 hopefully giving time for analysis before the Annual Meeting in March. The deadline for return of completed survey forms is January 11th, please take a few minutes to complete your form and return it via Budgens or Mike Humphries.

4. Coffee Spot.....Coffee Spot continues to provide a focal point for the village with Friday being a time to meet up with friends and neighbours at the Village Hall. Coffee Spot continued to run at the record levels of 2013 and contributed £4400 to hall funds, a big thank you to Liz, Jan and their team of helpers for all their hard work. Once again this year Coffee Spot held a MacMillan coffee morning and raised just short of £600 a fantastic result. The regular team are now trying to spread the load of preparing cakes, serving, setting up tables and clearing up afterwards across a larger group of helpers, please contact Liz, Jan or Phil if you would like to join in. Once again a Xmas party was held to say thank you to all the helpers, just one of the benefits of joining in!

5. 100 Club.....The 100 Club continues to generate a steady income but less than in previous years and we still need new members to help us raise funds for your hall. Only about 70 Rowledge households are members, less than 10% of the population. If you are already one of them then please introduce a friend and if you are not yet a member please collect a form from the hall or website www.rowledgevillagehall.com and fill it in.

6. Coming Events.... A couple of dates to put in your diary. On Friday 6 February we will be holding a Jazz Supper for the first time, the evening will feature a Scottish jazz duo whose speciality is playing for village communities and the hall will be turned into a night club with a pay bar. Already booked for the summer is a return of The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company on Thursday 25 June, tickets will be limited so book early to avoid missing out.

7. Regular activities Angela's School of Dancing started weekly Ballroom Dancing classes on Monday evenings at the end of 2013 and also operated Saturday morning dance classes for children throughout 2014. Contact Angela via angelaschoolofdancing@hotmail.com to learn more.

A Thursday evening Yoga class is also now just over one year old, contact Fiona Massari via fiona.loveyoga@yahoo.co.uk to find out more.

Steady Steps fitness group for the over 65s on Monday afternoons continues to grow and now operates two sessions. For more information contact Louise Neave on louise@steadystepsphysio.co.uk.

Gardening Club was started last autumn and meets in the hall throughout the winter months on the second Thursday of each month. Membership has grown steadily throughout the year and this years Xmas party had to be held in the large hall as the front hall was not large enough ! For more details contact Mandy Main on secretary@rowledgegardeningclub.org.uk.

We wish these new groups success and would love to hear from anyone who has an idea for a new group or a new one off event. Simply contact one of the committee directly or via the website www.rowledgevillagehall.com or e-mail info@rowledgevillagehall.com

8. Communications..... Despite a regular page in the Rowledge Review, posters and flyers, e-mails, use of the village website etc. we still feel the need to improve our communications within the village and to this end have established a Facebook presence. This will allow us to send details of coming events etc to all those who have chosen to Like us. Become a Facebook friend by 'liking' Rowledge Village Hall on its Facebook page and be the first to hear about future events and the latest news about the hall.

Best wishes

Rowledge Village Hall Committee