



## **MINCHINHAMPTON MARKET HOUSE CIO No. 1180035**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020 – 2021**

Looking back over the last 12 months, I have a very different report to present than in previous years. The Covid 19 Pandemic has closed the Market House for the best part of 2020/21.

Whilst lockdowns have been in force the Trustees have taken the opportunity to improve the existing facilities to ensure that the Market House will be 'fit for purpose' as the town's social, cultural and architectural centrepiece, when once again it will be able to welcome back members of the public.

### **MAINTENANCE**

The Trustees have taken full advantage of the imposed lockdowns to carry out necessary maintenance. The first Priority was the replacement of the rainwater guttering to the building. The Trustees launched an Appeal within the Parish of Minchinhampton, as owners of the Market House for the benefit of the people. I take this opportunity to thank everybody who made a contribution to the total of £16,000 raised.

I would also like to record the Committee's thanks to Tim Mowat for organising the Appeal, ensuring every house in the Parish received an Appeal letter. The sum raised together with the annual grant of £5,000 from Minchinhampton Parish Council covered the cost of the new guttering.

The Market House was eligible for a rates rebate grant from Stroud District Council as a result of the closure because of lockdown measures. This allowed the Trustees to carry out much needed repairs to the cornice, replace missing roof tiles, refurbish and paint the windows and external woodwork of the building.

Whilst there were no bookings taken, The Trustees arranged for the hall floor to be completely stripped and re-treated.

Lockdown also enabled the committee members involved in the theatre lighting facility within the Market House, to take stock of available equipment. The exercise resulted in being able to sell on unwanted items raising funds for

needed new equipment and making a donation to the Minchinhampton Players.



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## **HERITAGE LOTTERY BID**

The Trustees continue to work towards achieving a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to ensure that the Market House continues to fill a role within the community of Minchinhampton.

## **APPEAL FUND**

The purpose of the Appeal Fund is to provide match funding for specific improvements agreed by the Trustees to the Market House.

There is no guarantee that the Market House will receive a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. If it is not successful any monies in the Fund will be used to improve the existing facilities as appropriate.

## **BOOKINGS**

In complying with the Government's lockdown policy the number of bookings and enquiries have been drastically reduced.

During the summer and autumn term the EduCoOp school continued to hire the hall and Minchinhampton Wednesday Market was able to use the Undercroft. But since Christmas both they, and the Tai Chi classes, have not been able to use the Market House or undercroft.

Regular bookings such as the cinema evenings, the Minchinhampton Players and other community functions have not been able to take place. We look forward to welcoming these events back to the Market House when they are able to do so.

I cannot emphasise enough how important it is to have the support of the community by using the Market House, and I would like to say a special thank you to everyone in the community who volunteers to help in fund raising, and making events a success.



## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Once again the Market House took part in providing lights in the town. Phil Hale, Alan Vaughan and Justin Hodges were responsible for putting them up and taking them down again in January. A Christmas tree was donated by a local resident, and this year we agreed that pupils from Minchinhampton School could decorate the tree with their own special messages.

Because of lockdown, this year the Christmas Eve celebrations by the community centred in and around the Undercroft of Market House was not allowed to take place. However Alan Vaughan produced a short video of previous years events and posted it on the town's media site to remind the community of happy times at the Market House.

## THE FUTURE

The Trustees applied for a Village Hall Improvement Grant through DEFRA. The project they wished to be considered is the re-laying of the pavers in the Undercroft, to make the area safe for the general public, improve access, and therefore increase the use of the space and in turn generate more letting income.

The members of the parish were surveyed to ask if they were in agreement with the proposed plans. Over 95% of responses were in favour.

A very detailed plan was drawn up, costed, and tenders for the work to be carried out were obtained from a number of contractors.

Unfortunately on this occasion we were unsuccessful but have been requested to apply again if more government funds are made available.

However, having done much investigation work it has been decided that the Trustees would look to fund raise independently in order to progress the project. Tim Mowat is approaching Trust Funds in order to raise the necessary money.



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## MINCHINHAMPTON MARKET HOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Sadly during this year we have lost two valued Trustees.

Philip Callaghan-Wright          Minchinhampton Parish Council Representative

Hugh Kearsey                          Minchinhampton Local History Group

Jan Garling stood down as Booking Secretary in July

We have welcomed 3 new members to the Management Committee

Joe May joined the Trustees in July as Booking Secretary

Leonora Rozee joined the Trustees in September

Stan Waddington joined the Trustees in September as Minchinhampton Parish Council Representative

I retire from trusteeship and from the Chairmanship of Minchinhampton Market House CIO with effect from today's AGM.

My fellow Trustees have invited Justin Hodges to become chairman of Minchinhampton Market House CIO and I am delighted that he has accepted.

All that remains for is, once again, to thank the whole Committee for their continued support this year and throughout my time as Chairman. As I have always said, your commitment to the Market House has made the role of Chairman an honour for me to hold.

Throughout my 6 years as Chairman I have to say thank you very much Tim for your counsel and support. It has always been much appreciated.

To everyone on the Committee, it has been a privilege to know and work with you all.

Thank you.                          J M Payne Chairman