



Minchinhampton Market House CIO No 1180035

Chairman's Report 2021-2022

Return from COVID

As the pandemic restrictions have eased across the country, so life at the Market House has also begun to return to some semblance of normality. The opportunity to do essential maintenance during lockdown, highlighted in the last Chairman's report, has proven invaluable in welcoming the community back to the Market House.

Hirings

Bookings have picked up during the last year and, as of March 2022, appear to be returning to normal. It was fantastic to welcome back our regular Customers. The EduCoOp school are back in residence. Dazzle, Tai Chi classes and the Minchinhampton Wednesday Market have all returned over the last year to now normal activities.

Market House Entertainment Events

The Market House has also seen the recommencement of entertainment events in November, with The Canterbury Tales and in January the Johnny Coppin Folk concert in partnership with the Minchinhampton Folk Club. Both were sold out successes. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Folk Club.

It was wonderful to welcome the Minchinhampton Players back and I would like to thank them for their generous support to the Market House. As normal, they played to packed houses at their December performances of Home Groan Too. We are very excited at the prospect of their summer and winter performances. More details to come!

It has also been great to see the re-commencement of the Market House Film Nights.

I would like to thank all those who have supported the Market House in this way and encourage everyone to attend the exciting programme we have for the rest of 2022. As well as providing a great night out for the community, these events also raise funds for keeping the Market House looking great and being available for everyone to use. We have this year enabled online ticket sales to supplement buying tickets in the Market Stores. See our website for this year's events.

To help improve our ability to run a programme of events, we have had programme updating facilities, such as modernizing the stage lights. Over the next year we are planning to improve the Market House's audio capabilities.

Fund Raising

A huge thank you for all those who have raised funding to support the Market House. The October Quiz Night and proceeds from book sales are very much appreciated and really show the community's support.

The pandemic has affected the nature and size of grant giving organisations to charities such as the Market House. Understandably, much focus has been on support people impacted by COVID and this has constrained the funding available to the Market House. We have also seen an emphasis on wider social value priorities. I believe that this will benefit the Market House, as our primary purpose is to be at the heart of the community. The more the community uses the Market House the greater our ability will become to successfully request grant funding.

Notwithstanding this difficult environment I must give special thanks to Tim Mowat, who has been really very successful in raising appeal funding for the Market House. Over the last year our efforts have been focused on raising the funding to restore and develop the Market House undercroft. Through Tim's excellent work we have nearly reached our funding target, and we will discuss and vote to make up the balance for the initial work using the ACRE managed DEFRA Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund. However we still need to raise additional appeal funding.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minchinhampton Parish Council for their continuing support of the Market House during the 2021-2022 year. As a committee we understand the pressures and priorities the Council faces and are hugely appreciative of the grant given to the Market House that goes towards the day to day running of this important community property.

Restoring and Developing the Undercroft

Following the very supportive public consultation the Management Committee have been refining the project to restore and develop the undercroft. Details can be found on the Market House website.

We decided to phase the project due to needing more time to raise funding, but in essence the relaying of the undercroft flagstones will begin around Easter 2022. This will include providing better power and lighting, thereby improving access and making it a more useable space for hiring. I have already reported our intention to vote on making up the shortfall of funding using the DEFRA loan fund.

The second phase will be to preserve the unique aspects of the railings whilst also making some removeable when better access to the undercroft is needed. We have yet to set a date for this subsequent activity as we are actively raising the necessary funding. Anyone wanting to know more, or offers of help and donations, please get in touch with Tim Mowat.

In January 2022 we began the preliminary work, digging 4 archeological test pits. The remains of some of the original Tudor cellars were found and it was fascinating to see the foundations to the Market House. The full archeological survey report can be found on the Market House website.

Minchinhampton Market House Management Committee

Over the last year we have been delighted to welcome Linda Grist to the Trustees representing the Minchinhampton Wednesday Market.

All committee members have kindly agreed to continue as charity trustees for another year. Nina Bryan (Secretary), Tim Mowat (Appeals Lead) and Richard Bryan (Treasurer) have all declared that they intend to stand down from the committee at next year's AGM (2023). So, over the next year we will be actively seeking willing volunteers to continue their great work for the Market House.

The Market House cannot function without the energy, enthusiasm, and hard work from all the committee members. The last year has seen a great number of activities, for instance:

- Clearing out and organizing storage with racking
- Cleaning under the stage
- Fixing broken toilet door locks
- Plumbing and a wealth of other general maintenance tasks
- Running the bookings
- Putting up Christmas lights
- As is the nature of the modern age, we have also needed to review and update key policies (Health & Safety, Diversity etc)
- We are already planning to refresh key parts of the Market House in the next year

Some of these activities are small, but necessary tasks. Others are more major pieces of work. However, they all amount to a huge effort to keep the Market House available and at the centre of the community.

The last year has been a fantastic team effort. We have emerged from COVID and the Market House is resuming its place as one of the key focal points for life in Minchinhampton. I think as a committee we can take a brief moment of pride in what we have achieved. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the trustees for their support, hard work and dedication over the last year.

Justin Hodges
Chairman
Minchinhampton Market House CIO