



## Minchinhampton Market House CIO No 1180035

### Chairman's Report 2022

#### Summary

During 2022 the Market House has seen private hirings, markets, concerts, plays, dance classes, film nights, Tai Chi and schooling. All have contributed to adding opportunity, entertainment and prosperity to the community.

#### Market House Entertainment Events

Following a return from the previous years of COVID, 2022 saw the Market House increasing the number and variety of events held for the community. A new feature has been a strong folk music theme, with regular partnering with the Minchinhampton Folk Club, with events very well attended.

We were delighted to continue hosting the Minchinhampton Players and I would like to thank them for their generous support to the Market House. As normal, they played to packed houses.

I would like to thank Phil Hale in particular, and Adrian also, for the very hard work in arranging the events and corralling us all to help in the running of them. Also our collective thanks must go to all those who have supported the Market House by attending the 2022 events. Our 2023 programme has got off to a very strong start and we have some great events for the rest of the year. See our website for this year's events. 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.

#### Fund Raising

A huge thank you for all those who have donated and raised funding to support the Market House.

During 2022, obtaining funds from grant giving organisations continued to be difficult. We continue to see 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. As reported last year, we did need to make up the balance for the initial work using the ACRE managed DEFRA Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minchinhampton Parish Council for their continuing support of the Market House during 2022. As a committee we understand the pressures and priorities the Council faces and are hugely appreciative of the grant given to the Market House.

## **General Maintenance and Improvements**

The most notable maintenance issue facing the Market House in 2022 was the damage caused by the very hot weather to the coving. The high temperatures dried out the lime plaster, which cracked causing plaster to fall onto the street below. We aim to raise the funds to have this repaired in 2023.

The main hall has been in near constant use through 2022 and it is now starting to look a bit worn. During 2023 we will be targeting improvements in the main hall. Mainly decoration, new blinds and a replacement stage curtain.

## **Restoring the Undercroft**

Funded from public donations, grants and the DEFRA loan fund referred to earlier in this report, we have pushed ahead with the first phase of restoring the Undercroft paving, fitting electricity sockets and lighting.

In January 2022 we began the preliminary work, digging 4 archaeological test pits. The restoration work started properly later in the year with detailed archaeological oversight. Remains of some of the original Tudor cellars were found, as was pottery, glass and clay pipes. It was fascinating to see the foundations to the Market House and some of the previous floors. The full archaeological report can be found on the Market House website. We held a presentation day for the community in February 2023, which was exceptionally well attended. The work will be completed by the Spring.

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 see our website.

## **Minchinhampton Market House Management Committee**

The committee remained unchanged during 2022 but will see a large turnover at our AGM in March 2023. Nina Bryan (Secretary), Tim Mowat (Funding Lead) and Richard Bryan (Treasurer) have all declared that they intend to stand down from the committee at the 2023 AGM. Adrian Herbert and Leonora Rozee will also stand down. I would like to thank them all for the commitment and dedication they have shown over the years. Their hard work has been instrumental in the increasing profile and use of the Market House by the community.

The Market House cannot function without the energy, enthusiasm, and hard work from all the committee members. And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those remaining committee members for their hard work, enthusiasm and for agreeing to stay on for another busy year. The last year has seen a great number of activities, which although taking place in the background are no less vital to the running of the Market House, keeping it available and at the centre of the community.

I'm delighted to say we have had a great response from volunteers willing to come onto the committee, and this will be confirmed at this year's 2023 AGM.

2022 has seen a brilliant team effort. The Market House's profile is growing with ever more people visiting us for all the events and activities it provides.

Justin Hodges  
Chairman  
Minchinhampton Market House CIO  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2023