



Minchinhampton
MARKET HOUSE

It's yours – use it and enjoy it!



Minchinhampton Market House CIO No 1180035

Chairman's Report 2024

Summary

During 2024 the Market House has supported private hirings, markets, concerts, plays, dance classes, film nights, business, local history events, Christmas carols, and Tai Chi.

All of the activities have contributed to adding opportunity, entertainment and prosperity to the local community.

Market House Entertainment Events

In the last year we have increased the number of events held by the Market House:

- Concerts: 4
- Plays & Readings: 5
- Puppet Shows: 1
- Discos: 2
- We were delighted to continue hosting the Minchinhampton Players and I would like to thank them for their support to the Market House. As normal, they played to packed houses. They have a great programme for 2025.
- We were also delighted to support the Minchinhampton Folk Club in the summer for the weekend festival.

Our collective thanks must go to all those who have supported the Market House by attending the 2024 events. Our 2025 programme has got off to a good start, although we are likely to reduce the number of shows through the remainder of this year due to Trustees and volunteer available time. Keep an eye on our events website page, announcements on Facebook (especially MinchLife) and posters at the Market House entrance.

General Maintenance and Improvements

We have been unable to repair the coving damage caused by the very hot weather in August 2022. This has been due to finishing the Undercroft restoration in 2023 and to the reduction of volunteers' time to arrange quotes and seek funding in 2024. We have monitored the damaged from a safety perspective and have had contractors in to make things safe for pedestrians and cars below. I reported last year our intention to carry out repairs this year, 2025, and we have now obtained quotes to move this forward.

The main hall is in near constant use, and it is now looking a bit tired. Initial work on redecoration during 2023 was paused. Again, due to focus on finishing the Undercroft restoration and trustee availability. However, we have now obtained quotes and have a work group looking at colour schemes etc for redecoration and new curtains. We are planning to carry out the work this August 2025.

Fund Raising

We have not carried out any specific fund raising during 2024. However, we are about to seek grant funding to part cover the coving repair. We would welcome anyone from the community who has the time and desire to help us in this endeavour. No previous experience necessary!

I would like to formally thank MinchLife for their kind donations. Also our thanks must go to the many individuals who have made personal donations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minchinhampton Parish Council for their continuing outstanding support of the Market House during the 2024 financial year. As a committee we understand the pressures and priorities the Council faces and we are hugely appreciative of the grants given to the Market House.

Trustees and Volunteers

We have spent a lot of effort this year seeking to attract new trustees and volunteers to the Market House.

Fond Farewells. We have had Phil Hale and Annis May Timpson retire as Trustees since the last AGM. I wish to thank them both for their excellent contribution to the Market House over their years of service. I'm delighted to say that Phil continues supporting the Market House as a volunteer. I also wish to give special thanks to Joe May who stands down today having been our Bookings member for many years. This is a never ending job and he has been fantastic.

Happy Hellos.

- At last year's AGM we took an action to invite both the resurgent Local History Group and MinchLife to join committee with Appointed Trustees. We are delighted that Gary Atkinson (History) and Sue Parker (MinchLife) have joined the committee.
- We have also been joined by Anne Vella as the new Secretary and Martyn Beaufort who as of today becomes our new Bookings member. Welcome both.

Volunteers. I would also like to thank Avril Dordoy, Steph Minns and Pamela Wright for agreeing to being volunteers to help when they can.

Other Matters

- **Great News!** I'm delighted to embarrass Gary by bringing to everyone's attention that the Parish council last week awarded him the PC Jim Gregory Cup community award. The cup is awarded to an individual or group who have given outstanding voluntary service to the Parish of Minchinhampton during the previous year. Gary was awarded the cup for his sterling work reinvigorating the Local History Group – really very well deserved.
- **History Trail.** We have been supporting Cllr Gill Thomas and Gary with the History Trail project. Just over £4000 has been raised to support this project and implementation planning has begun.
- **Thanks.** 2024 has been another brilliant team effort. The Market House's profile is growing with ever more people visiting us for all the events and opportunities it provides. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Trustees for all of their dedication, hard work and support to the Market House.

Justin Hodges
Chairman
Minchinhampton Market House CIO
26th April 2025