Chairmans report 2021

It’s fair to say this past year has affected us all in some way either professionally or personally. As a committee we have had to close our doors to the bar areas, meeting room, changing rooms and the hall. This has impacted us by reducing our general financial income but more importantly as a facility that so many people make use of and benefit from.

There isn’t much to report on from the general day to day running of the STMA but that doesn’t mean we’ve been twiddling our thumbs.

While closed we have been scrutinising and improving various aspects of the management of the buildings facilities and its grounds and making various improvements as time has allowed.

The hall refurbishment is almost certainly the biggest task our volunteers have undertaken in recent years other than the Phase 1 works back in 2017. Being closed gave us the time to achieve this task and funding was obtained from the Wixham Tree and Robert Lucas Trusts to improve its thermal / acoustic properties. Our hall is now more manageable so a greater range of activities can place for groups and private hire. Our in house amateur dramatics group the Meppershall Players are assisting us further by providing all the kit necessary to improve the stage with new curtains and a modern lighting and audio system which we can use for a wider range and more impressive array of STMA events.

We’ve been improving our CCTV system inside and out so we can monitor and report any issues that may arise with the support our Stewards.

Groups are already starting up again in the building and on the grounds and we’re beginning to get a sense of normality as we have seen in previous years.

The management committee is made up of volunteers and I feel a debt of thanks is owed to all involved in keeping the STMA open and sustainable for the people of Shefford, Chicksands and the surrounding parishes.