

January 2022 The Victoria Hall

Thank you to the many good people from the Dever Valley who made a donation via Just Giving for the Clock Tower Appeal and to the others who chose to donate independently. Thanks to you we managed to achieve our target and once again the bell rings out and the shiny new faces with the new gold leaf covered hands tell the time. One or two expected teething problems are almost fixed and this 120 year old mechanism is accurate to within two minutes a WEEK. You'll see a picture of the refurbished mechanism in the picture gallery under the History button as well as some other pictures taken during restoration.

As well as "fixing" the clock we have repaired and replaced the windows and louvers in the Clock Tower, replaced the lead on the tower roof and restored the weather vane so that it now faces the right way and turns in the wind. If you've never noticed, it was installed in 1902 and is the silhouette of a Hampshire Boar. We've also upgraded the stage lighting and also improved the heating in the hall. Our next project is to tackle the wooden floor in the main hall. It was sanded and re-varnished some years ago and is now in need of attention. We have decided to leave the Just Giving page open for donations as by donating to the hall through this method we also benefit from Gift Aid. The Victoria Hall built in 1897 is always in need of attention and attention invariably costs money so please do think about us when considering what charity to support..

I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking our Booking Secretary, Jill Powell who has decided to resign from this post after many years of managing our bookings and also meeting and welcoming new bookers into the hall. Without our bookings the hall would close as we rely on the money from hirers to pay for this invaluable asset to the village and surrounding area. As with all the officers and committee members Jill is a volunteer and freely gave of her time and energy. Thank you Jill.

We have a new Temporary Booking Secretary until such time as a permanent person can be appointed. He is Rob Parker who is also responsible for this website. You can contact Rob on 07980 773330 or victoriahallbookings@gmail.com.

This is your hall please support it either by attending the many events which take place or consider holding an event yourself.

I hope you all have a healthy, happy and hopefully liberating 2022.

Alistair Black.