

## Prestonville Street Party - The Great Get Together



### Coming Up at the Hall

The Hall reopens on September 6<sup>th</sup> after the Summer Break, with more events and activities:

- ▶ **Tea Club** – 08/09/2017
- ▶ **Music Quiz** – 16/09/2017
- ▶ **Jazz Brunch** – 17/09/2017
- ▶ **Job Club** – 29/09/2017
- ▶ **Film Friday: The Pirates Band of Misfits** – 29/09/2017
- ▶ **Shareholder Open Evening/AGM** – 06/10/2017
- ▶ **Vintage Clothing Sale** – 08/10/2017
- ▶ **Board Games Gala** – 19/11/2017

Visit our website - [www.exeterstreethall.org](http://www.exeterstreethall.org) - for more information ... and to buy tickets.

# EXETER STREET HALL



Registered with the Financial Conduct Authority  
Registered number 31628R

## The Hall Get Involved Limited Directors' Report - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

### Community in Action

It's been almost 5 years since our community invested in THGI Ltd and we were able to buy Exeter Street Hall – securing its future in perpetuity. Buying the Hall has been an amazing achievement. With your continued and unwavering support we have made great strides in restoring and improving the fabric of the building, whilst filling it with an engaging and wide range of activities and events.

In a year that has been full of turmoil and uncertainty for many, time and again we have seen communities pull together to stand strong and support one another. We pay tribute to those communities.

We know we're privileged to live in such a vibrant place. This year we have been delighted to collaborate with our own fellow community groups, the Prestonville Community Association and St Luke's on some wonderful events. These included the Euro Lunch, Community Carols and, most recently, the barnstorming, successful Great Get Together (eat your heart out Glastonbury!).

We believe we're heading in the right direction. We hope you agree. Please join us at the AGM 6 October 2017 to have your say.

The Directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017.

### Principal activities

At last year's AGM we set out our aims for this year:

1. We said we wanted to become more financially sustainable by increasing our income from hirers. In 2016/17 income from hirers was £16698 - an increase of 29% on the previous year.
2. We said we'd hold down costs. Operating costs have held steady at approximately £1200pcm.
3. We said we wanted to generate more income via fundraising. In December 2016 we were awarded a grant of £36k from Veolia to complete our 'Access for All' project. In addition, our awesome volunteers have raised a further £8k through events. This income has been received after the year end and will show in next year's accounts.
4. We promised to continue with the restoration of the Hall and continue our 5 phased-plan of works. This summer we have completed a major project to make the Hall fully accessible – this is another major milestone achieved.

We're proud of our achievements this year but we're not going to rest on our laurels. We think we're half way there. We've an estimated £120k of further restoration and repair work to complete our 5-phased-plan of works and bring our Hall up to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards. We're committed to keeping up the momentum to complete the project in the next 3-5 years and believe that, with your continued support, this is a realistic goal.

*'I would absolutely not hesitate to come back to the Hall and have often recommended the space to others.'*  
*Jonathan Brown, Artistic Director, Something Underground Theatre Company*

### **Brick by brick - our building work**

This summer the Hall was closed to complete the 'Access for All' project. We're thrilled with the results and hope you will be too. The Hall now has an accessible toilet, a new access ramp, a corridor from the main door to the rear and a lobby. For the first time, everyone in the community will be able to enjoy the activities and events that we have to offer. The lobby will also improve insulation as we strive to be energy efficient. It will also make the Hall safer for children's events. Finally, the corridor provides direct access to the Community Room so that it can be hired out separately from the main Hall - thus providing a much needed additional income stream.

*'The Hall has a brilliant location...the team are a dream to work with...'  
Natalie, Maternity Worldwide*

### **Our Community Groups and Events**

We have continued to run our established low/no cost community groups (Tea Club, Stay and Play and Jobs Club). The kids' Film Friday Club was put on hold but we plan to restart this in the autumn term. New afternoon sessions of table tennis and art have been a huge hit and we have kept the price down so that they are genuinely affordable. These groups are all run by dedicated volunteers.

Our events team have delivered some brilliant and creative events that have encouraged people of all ages and interests into the Hall. We had the Bloom Garden Festival, Indian Bingo, Prestonville History Night, Orchestra Pension Tina and Quiz nights for the grown-ups. Our sell-out Halloween event was exactly that, and a brilliant Star Wars event attracted sci-fi fans young and old. The range and creativity seems to be never ending.

### **Fareshare**

The Hall continues to support Fareshare in its objective of redistributing surplus food to charities and community groups who transform it into nutritious meals for vulnerable people. So far, donations collected via Exeter Street Hall have provided over 650 meals to local people in need. If you're coming to the AGM perhaps you might bring a little something with you - a tin, or non-perishable food items would be very welcome indeed.

### **Attracting Exciting Hirers to the Hall**

Regular bookings have never been busier and we've been able to add to the range of sports and leisure classes for all ages. New for this year has been Brighton Ballet School for kids and we have Tai Chi and Tai Kwando available for adults for the first time.

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we've been part of the Brighton Fringe with Director Jonathan Brown returning with his Something Underground company. Tree House Theatre company also put on a production (and will be back this year). Gin and Bear It hosted a fabulous Christmas Fair with festive cheer to get us all in the mood.

*'The Hall is a great space and has a wonderful, inclusive community feel. The volunteers and neighbours all seem so positive and enthusiastic about the upkeep...'  
Helen, Brighton Boogie*

### **Strength in numbers - our volunteers and supporters**

We continue to be indebted to our volunteers. We have about 50 people who contribute regularly, amounting to several hundred hours of volunteer effort each month. We have volunteers who run events, clean, work on the bar, fix things, check things are safe, do the books, the list is endless. Fancy joining us? It's great fun, and very rewarding. Talk to us at the AGM or pop along to the Hall Action Group. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday monthly upstairs at the Chimney House.

### **Three Ways to Help**

#### **1. Friends of the Hall**

Could you help us with a small, regular donation? Our aim is to raise £300 pcm. You can set up a standing order to:

The Hall Get Involved – Donate  
Sort Code: 08 92 99  
Account Number: 65590490

NB. Your donations will attract Gift Aid, if this applies.

#### **2. Tell your Neighbours**

New neighbours? Tell them about the Hall or bring them to an event. We'd love people new to the area to buy a share or two and play their part in the Hall's future.

#### **3. Support our Events**

Without your support, we simply would not have achieved what we have so far. Ours is a remarkable story, and you are part of it. You have saved our Hall, securing its future as a community space, run for the community by the community.

### **Directors**

The following people served as directors during the year:

Marianne Craig – elected 6 September 2013, re-elected 6 October 2016  
Susan Corlett (Chair) – elected 4 July 2014, re-elected 6 October 2016  
Dave Fellows - elected 17 July 2015  
Norman Wright – elected 6 October 2016  
Jo Camplisson (Treasurer) - elected 6 October 2016

### **Secretary**

The following people served as Secretary during the period:

Louise McGowan - appointed 6 October 2016

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2017 available at:

<http://www.exeterstreethall.org/our-rules/agm-2017/>

This report was approved by the board on 31 August, 2017 and signed on its behalf.



Susan Corlett  
Chair