

SOUTH ZEAL VICTORY HALL

1922 - 2022

THE FIRST 100 YEARS

*Opening of the New Victory Hall
Wednesday 25th October 1922*



Acknowledgements

Most of all, grateful thanks to South Tawton and District Local History Group for the use of their archive of documents, maps and photographs. Without the support and encouragement of Nick Atkinson from the Group, neither this project, nor the 2018 research of the building of the hall for the WW1 centenary (used again here) would have been possible.

Past copies of The Beacon, the community magazine for Belstone, South Tawton, South Zeal and Sticklepath. Accessed from South Tawton and District Local History Group archive.

‘South Tawton Parish Council - The First 50 years 1895 - 1944’, Patrick Shaw, January 1995, produced by South Tawton and District Local History Group.

Liz Weatherley, for so very kindly sharing her extensive graphic design experience.

Meg Wolton, in 2018, for kindly giving information and advice regarding the history of the building of the hall.

Fi Reddaway
Produced by South Zeal Victory Hall Management Committee
October 2022

Just think of the number of groups and locals who have used South Zeal Victory Hall over the past hundred years. Especially its older members who have lived much of its history. Locals and those not so local may have attended concerts, plays; perhaps by South Zeal Players or professional touring theatre companies, parties, meetings, South Zeal Show, Beacon Arts events, no end of fund raising events, weddings, funeral wakes - the list is endless. Not forgetting the play group, later to become the Pre School, now Little Beacons of South Tawton Primary School. Nothing different to what happens in all other cherished community buildings, but this is the story of this much loved village hall.



So many members of the community must have helped to look after it over the decades. Committee members, cleaners, caretakers, builders, decorators and most of all the many hundreds of people who will have helped by donating to the countless, always needed fundraising events for the hall's maintenance, building and refurbishment projects. *There's a full list of all the 79 members of the community who have serviced on The Management Committee since 1990 at the end of this book.*

The main street in South Zeal before the hall was built

When South Zeal Victory Hall was conceived, planned and built to honour those lost in The Great War, the effort of the community of South Zeal and South Tawton was indomitable. From donating land for the site, creating an organising committee, collecting granite and



most of all fund raising within the parish. The initial building cost,

eventually vastly reduced to £1,000 (approximately £34,000 in today's money), did not include the land, much of the materials, architect fees or of course the volunteering time of everyone who helped achieve this monumental task.

Importantly, in 1922 it was a much smaller building than we see today and fundraising had to continue for many more years; both to complete the payment of the original debt, as well as to build what we now call the Committee Room and the kitchen and stores to its rear.

At different times over the subsequent years, more major fundraising was required for building the additional area at the rear of the hall, revisions to the hall's frontage and redevelopment of the kitchen area.

The maintenance of the hall and its contents; upgrading heating, lighting, electricity, doors, windows, the stage area, curtains, floors, roofing, ceilings, kitchen facilities, boilers, decorating inside and out (numerous times) has been a constant source of work over the decades.

The Hall's minute books demonstrate that in this regard nothing has in fact changed over its first hundred years. Maintenance and fund raising requires constant effort, with peaks of major projects and troughs of ongoing care.

Most recently, in 2021, in preparation for its centenary, the Management Committee's Refurbishment Project has included a complete replacement of the central heating system, costing just under £20,000. The additional decoration of the interior, the addition of insulation above the ceiling in the main hall and new windows at the rear and sides of the hall cost a further £10,000. Much of this work has only been possible due to having received grants of £20,000 from the Den Brook Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, £1,000 from South Tawton Parish Council as well as the £10,000 national Coronavirus Small Business Grant Fund, administered here by West Devon Borough Council.

The other constant is that it's right in the centre of South Zeal and very well used. No it doesn't have a car park, something much debated. But it does have a future. It will change as we will and let's hope that in 100 years from now in 2122, those here then will celebrate and

commemorate The Victory Hall as much as we are today.

Prior to 1919

In 1894 the Local Government Act established elected councils at District and Parish level. One of the functions of the new Parish Councils, including South Tawton was "to provide and maintain a village hall, or playing field, if demanded by the parishioners at a parish meeting". This power would later be used in the development of The Victory Hall.

1919

The planning involved in building the original Victory Hall and alterations in its first few years was immense. It was far from straightforward, involving much debt, fundraising and alteration of plans. Yet without the altruism of the site's donors, Mr & Mrs Keener, who knows what other options would have been devised to support the parish's request for a village hall to honour those that fell in The Great War.

Additional land at the side of the building was also given by Tom and Charlie White of adjacent Barton Farm. They were also both committee members in the early years. This land is the site of the kitchen, store rooms and committee room.

June - The meeting to discuss the War Memorial was well attended. The desire to erect a Village Hall was very evident. An alternative suggestion, a cross, was also adopted. 'Collectors were appointed to canvass the parish for subscriptions to either object. It was agreed that as part of either scheme, a tablet should be placed in the Church, recording the names of those who had fallen.'

July - The committee had met twice and made much progress. At the first meeting they decided to proceed with the village hall and the tablet in the church; at the second to regard the tablet as the memorial to the men who have given their lives, and the village hall as a Victory Hall for the use of the parish.

October - The committee reported to a general meeting on Sept 8th. They recommended a parish hall at a cost of £800 and as a memorial to the fallen, the erection of an oak tablet in the church, at a cost of £62 10s 0d.

Mr and Mrs George and Annie Keener kindly offered to gift the main site for the Victory Hall around this time. The land at the time was



*Mr and Mrs Keener,
donors of the site
of the main hall
building*

two garden plots, separately rented by John Endacott and John Westaway, with a strip of land at the front adjacent to the main street.

Mrs Keener, known for her philanthropic nature and originally from Plymouth, had before his death been married to a Mr Crocker. Mr and Mrs Keener lived further up the hill at Glenelvin, then called Jampay. It is understood they later lived in Beacon View adjacent to the Victory Hall.

1920

February – The memorial oak tablet is to go ahead and ‘a hall is to be built for the use of

the parish in commemoration of the Victory... a Parish Hall is a clear necessity.’

April - ‘There is now £400 in the bank for the Victory Hall.’ Stone from the moor was going to be used in its building and ‘Mr John Holman has drawn a couple of loads’ in preparation.

Fundraising efforts continued, and people were encouraged to continue with their support ‘the more money that is paid in, brings the date of starting to build nearer. It is not very helpful to say I will give so much when the building is begun. The scheme is launched and therefore it is begun, to all intents and purposes.’

1921

February- £592 18s 6d had now been raised, as well as enough stone breaking on the moor to enable a good supply to be brought onto the site. A further appeal was made for the harder to raise remainder of the monies, with concern made over increasing costs.

March – Plans were produced by local architect Mr Crocker, but they were not approved. There would be much discussion over the coming months over the building length, internal layout and materials.

May - By May there was £610 in the bank and tenders from local

builders were invited, the architect was asked to make further revisions to the plans. In July only one local tender had been received and it was decided to fully open tenders. It was also agreed to start building works once two thirds of the required money was in hand.

In December the full details of six new tenders were minuted, ranging from £1,642 to £2,442, far in excess of the original build estimate. The architect was asked to further revise the internal layout to see if a cost reduction were feasible.

The beginning of the planning of the building of the Victory Hall formally began on 18th April 1921 at the first meeting of ‘The Victory Hall Scheme’.

Descendants of many of the original committee will still live in the local community. Those founding committee members were Mr E Stanbury, Mr W Avery, Mr R Sampson, Mr J Handy, Mr W J Tucker, Mr E Endacott, Mr Sparshatt, Mr G Keener, Mr J A Cooper, Mr C Radmore, Mr J Clements, Mr E White, Rev E F Ball and Mr H Perryman.

Ex servicemen Mr G Kelly, Mr E Counter, Mr G Williams, Mr T Smith, Mr W Wedlake, Mr E Woods, Mr W Holman, Mr W Redstone, Mr D Rees and Mr H Vigers.

A Ladies’ Committee constituted Mrs K Lethbridge, Mrs Keener, Mrs E White, Miss Cann and Miss Hocking.

A sub committee, the Building Committee comprised Rev E Ball, Mr G Keener, Mrs E Stanbury, Mr R Sampson, Mr E Counter, Mr E Woods, Mr E Vigers (Treasurer) and Mr J Yeo (Secretary). The Trustees were Mr Keener and Mr Vigers.

1922

It was proposed to reduce the building size due to the high tenders. Although contested, the amendment was agreed. This was later altered with the request for local labour and to pay off the architect. Fresh



*The hall's site is marked
'Mr J Endacott'.*



plans were drawn up and separate tenders invited for building the walls, supply of bricks, slates, timber and roof building, with the committee to find the stone and sand. Mr Pearse of Okehampton was asked to draw up fresh plans. In April, local builder Mr W Counter offered to build the hall with more acceptable terms. His tender was unanimously accepted. Mr Counter promised to have the building ready by November 1922. A huge sigh of relief all round.

On 18th March 1922 George and Annie Keener formally conveyed the land on which the main hall is built to the Parish Council. It is understood that they bought the land for this purpose. The indenture states '*... have agreed with the committee [the new Victory Hall Committee] to convey the said hereditaments to the council in consideration of their erecting a hall thereon for the benefit of the inhabitants of the said Parish of South Tawton. Such hall to be erected by the direction and with approval of the said committee....*

The parcel of land being portions of two garden plots with the strip of land in front of same abutting the main street of the village of South Zeal and on the north side thereof having a frontage of fifty feet or thereabouts and a depth of eighty feet of thereabouts which depth includes the strip of land planted with shrubs in front of same and which has an average depth of nine feet and is part of number 2242 on the Ordnance Survey map of the district, which garden



Laying of the hall's foundation stones

plots are now in the occupation of Mr John Wintaway and John Endacott...'

However many local people also made small financial gifts, helped organise money raising activities and also physically collected stone.

The Victory Hall's principal foundation stone was laid at 3pm on Friday 26th May 1922 by Mrs Kingsford Lethbridge. Her speech said '*the hall would be a lasting memorial of what their fellow Countrymen did for them.*'

Mr Stanbury also placed a stone in remembrance of being the Chairman of the Scheme. Mr D Rees, Petty Officer, representing the ex-servicemen, also laid a stone in memory of their fallen comrades. The stones were requested to be 20 inch x 18 inches in size. Invitations had been offered for anyone to place a stone by subscription of £5.

Committee members present were Mr E Vigers - Treasurer, Mr J Yeo - Honourable Secretary, Mr G Keener and Mrs Keener donors of the site. R Sampson, W & E Counter, E Woods, J Westaway, L Radmore, W Wedlake, Miss Cann, Miss Hocking, Rev Ball and others.

Afterwards, teas were provided at the Council School for 1 shilling, followed by a concert and dance.

Wednesday October 25th 1922

The parish magazine noted '*This great event will mark the completion of our War Memorial Scheme. It is a very great achievement and like all such matters has proved difficult and needed a lot of hard work and persistent work. As we all know, there is still a considerable sum to be raised before the Hall as it is at present is free of debt. It is our child, and our children need clothing. However, unlike children it can start at once to earn its living.*'

At 3pm the hall was declared opened. '*After the ceremony, a public tea, carried out by the Ladies' Committee. Followed by a Grand Concert, kindly got up by Mr and Mrs Clements, consisting of local and instrumental music. Skittling for a pig, numerous side shows, including hoopla, coconut shies, guessing competitions, sale of wares consisting of useful and fancy articles. Finishing with a dance.*' The event raised £74.18.5.



Mrs Kingsford Lethbridge (pictured centre) at the laying of the hall's foundation stones



The opening of the hall on 27th October 1922

The next meeting showed that there would be a further £111 needed to be raised to pay the balance due to the builder.

By December 1922 the Victory Hall Committee had disbanded itself and the hall passed to the Parish Council with three trustees. Since the opening of the hall the debt had been reduced from £259 to £125.

Much work would then continue on paying off debts, including a further appeal for parish subscriptions 'to get the old debt paid off before incurring any fresh debts.'

The Western Times - Exeter - Friday October 27th 1922 reported
'NEW VICTORY HALL

Proud moment for South Zeal and South Tawton - Book to parishioners. The new Victory Hall at South Zeal, which is to commemorate the sacrifice made by men of South Zeal and South Tawton in the Great War was opened on Wednesday in the presence of a very large gathering, by Mrs Kingsford Lethbridge of Wood, South Tawton.

The hall will provide a place for public gatherings of all kinds, and the need for such accommodation has been long felt. It has a clear inside space of 30 feet by 60 feet, and is built of Dartmoor granite

with cement and rough cast exterior, and an interior of varnished match-boarding. There is a spacious platform. The building is well lighted and ventilated, and two large fireplaces will give means of heating. The work has been carried out by Messrs. W. Counter and Sons, local builders, at a contract cost of £1,000, of which £750 had been raised prior to the opening proceedings.

It is hoped in the near future to add reading and billiard rooms. The site which is the centre of South Zeal, and is excellent in all respects was generously given by Mr and Mrs G Keener...'

1923

A 'greatly needed' lavatory and cloak room was planned, probably where the kitchen is now. Having "pledged themselves not to incur any further debts", this "placed them rather in a difficulty."

A kind parishioner lent the hall a significant amount to pay off their debts, including Mr Counter the builder.

The bill for the 100 chairs, ordered the previous year was now also paid, at a cost of £24.

A fund raising Boxing Day whist drive and dance raised just under £13.

In the early years users of the hall included amongst others 'The Badminton Club', The 'Foot Ball' Committee and 'The Slate Club Oxenham Arms'. Its uses included dances, concerts, theatrical productions, whist drives, dance classes, jumble sales and hunt balls.

1925

A Reading room was planned along with a gentleman's cloak room and tea room. With plans drawn up, only one tender was received, from Messrs W Cook and E Woods for the sum of £252.

A fete was held in Messrs J & C White's field in South Zeal in August to help raise the necessary funds as well as reducing existing debts. Many in the parish got involved and £126 was raised, the Committee thinking this 'very satisfactory'. The works went ahead.

1927

Another fund raising fete was held to try and pay off the hall's debts. This time being held at the Vicarage, £127 was raised.



An 'unsatisfactory smell from the gentleman's toilets' was reported, presumed to be from the septic tank. With no ventilation, the windows were altered to be openable!

1928

The Royal British Legion had a noticeboard fixed outside the hall, it being its headquarters.

Decorating was done by Mr Dellbridge - primrose coloured walls, revarnishing doors, external doors and windows.

The purchase of a piano was suggested. Agreed was needed but 'could not see their way clear' to affording it. Mrs Keener and three others offered to be guarantors. Another Boxing Day dance was planned, this time to raise funds for a piano. In the end Mr Wonnacott's piano was bought for £22.

A notice was put up to state that any damage to woodwork on the walls must be paid for!

1929

Mr Stoneman asked to be allowed to hold fortnightly Saturday night dances, with the proceeds going to the hall.

Roof slates were in need to repair and Mr Counter asked to investigate.

1930

The Paramount Dance Band of Okehampton was hired for an Easter Monday dance.

The drainage from the hall needed to be connected to the main sewer and a man was to be found to do this on a day work basis.

The Performing Rights Society was asked for advice on whether certain music came under their rights. After research it was decided not to licence the hall for the use of copyright music.

Better lighting in the hall was suggested and following enquiries at Garton and King in Exeter, lights were kindly donated.

1931

Girl Guides and Brownies started using the hall for £3.3.0 per season but not including fires.

The insurance company was written to to ask if the policy might cover the hall being used for 'cinemas'.

1932

The Sticklepath Women's Institute Dramatic Team and others asked if they may use the hall for rehearsals, but no fires or lights were included in the agreed charge.

A request was made from the [separate] Reading Room Committee asking for permission to carry electric wires through the hall for the purposes of lighting the reading room.

1933

A longstanding loan to a member of the community continued to be repaid, this year the sum of £50 was paid off.

South Zeal Women's Institute applied to use the hall for their meetings. The fee was 5/- per general meeting and £1.2.6 for the annual party. They had to make their own arrangement for heating water with the caretaker.

An estimate from The West Devon Electric Supply Company to wire and supply electric lights to the hall was accepted.

1934

A further £50 plus interest was paid towards the loan to the hall.

It was agreed to redecorate the hall 'within and without' again. Mr Dellbridge won the tender once more for the sum of £21.1.3.



A play called 'Bundle of Sticks' in the main hall in 1932



The Reading Room roof was not water tight and Mr A Counter was asked to advise and that the work be done as soon as possible.

1935

The Women's Institute asked for a reduction in charges for the hire of the hall for their Snowball Whist Drives.

The Hunt Ball Committee had recently put in extra wiring for fairy lights and as this was using a lot of extra light [electricity] 2/6 would be charged for any extra lights in future.

The stage was to be fitted with footlights and any broken lamps to be paid for by the hirer at the time.

The piece of ground in front of the hall was 'in a bad state' and some stone clippings were to be placed there.

Mr Counter was asked to put guttering around the hall.

1936

£50 was still owing to the longstanding debt and whilst it was hoped to pay this off there were some small bills to be paid instead.

A cinema company had wanted to use the hall but as no PRS license was held this was not possible.

The Exeter branch of the Ministry of Labour was to use the hall on Tuesday evenings.

A dance was to be held on Easter Monday for a charge of 5/-.

The performing Rights Society had written to insist that a fee now be paid for the right to use music in public spaces with a fee of £2.2.0 per year which was paid.

1937

A discussion on moving to heating the hall with electric was discussed along with other estimates for central heating.

1938

Garton and King of Exeter were the only company to submit a specification and estimate for heating the hall. Other estimates were needed 'as soon as possible'. Three estimates were eventually received for central heating and Messrs Wright of Okehampton were successful for the amount of £67.0.0. Works to be completed by August 1938.

The Easter Monday dance was so successful that another was to be held on Whit Monday with the same orchestra, The 30 Club.

Mr Stonemason the caretaker had passed away and a new caretaker Mr Bose appointed.

The reading room members asked that the doors leading through from the reading room to the hall be left unlocked so that they may have the use of the conveniences, this was agreed.

1939

The committee did not have sufficient funds to pay the full bill for the central heating and the remaining amount of £35.15.0 was asked to be paid as soon as possible with interest. The new heating appliances were insured for £1,000. Later that year a bank loan was obtained in order to pay the balance of the heating bill.

The fir tree outside the reading room was 'not being very ornamental' and it was agreed to cut it down.

September - the hall was now 'not in use due to the outbreak of war' and it was decided to dispense with the caretaker 'so as to curtail expenses'.

Soon though, 'through so many evacuee school children being billeted in the village, the question of accommodation for schooling has arisen'

An application had been received from the education authorities for use of the hall as a school. The charge was decided as 6/- per day, to include lights and caretaker and the education authority to supply their own coal. It seemed that the caretaker was only temporarily out of work.

1940

An insurance policy to cover liability for any accident sustained by the caretaker in the role of his duties was agreed.

A bill had been received for the blackouts to the hall windows, but as the committee had not asked for this to be done they decided not to pay the bill. At the next meeting the committee rescinded and paid the bill.

A list of caretaker's duties was written and Mr Bose having resigned, Mr P Gratton was appointed as the new caretaker.



1941

It was shown that 'only small profits were made from both cinema shows and dances, as the films were very expensive to loan.'

A request was made once again that 'something should be done about the ground in front of the hall.'

1942

The financial statements of accounts was presented and thought satisfactory.

It was felt that the rent for the reading room was 'rather much as there were not many members, owing to the young men joining the forces.' It was proposed to reduce the rent from £8 to £5 per annum.

1943

Lieutenant Walker of the American forces was present at the only meeting that year. The meeting was called to make arrangements for the American forces to have some use of the hall. It was agreed to let then have the hall for £1 per week.

1944

Again there was only one recorded meeting this year. More troops came and it is understood that a canteen in the hall, opened the previous year, but then closed for a short while was now needed to reopen in earnest. A fee of £1 per week was agreed.

1945

It was 'passed to have the hall redecorated inside and out.'

Specifications were received from Mr A J Counter for repairs required to the hall and the reading room. It was decided that the work should go out to tender. Mr Hucker was successful in his bid of £160 to include a new entrance door to the reading room. The Ministry of Works wrote to the committee stating that the works should not be carried out as they were not essential.

The Rev. Ball (now no longer the vicar in the parish) resigned as a Trustee and Rev C.H.Burton was appointed in his place. It was agreed that all succeeding vicars should become a trustee of the hall. The annual piano tuning cost £1.5.0.

1946

A new boiler was installed by Mr Barnicoat, but his bill was not to be paid until a leak had been rectified.

The committee thought the piano was 'getting rather bad' and enquiries were made about a replacement. A new piano was bought for £105.0.0 and a charge of 5/- would be made for its use (1/- for the Women's Institute).

By this time it was thought that some of the repairs not allowed in 1945 should go ahead as they were now badly needed. Advice was sought from the sanitary inspector regarding advice as to what could be done. The inspector felt that there was little chance of the repairs being done at present. It was thought if some paint could be 'obtained' that this 'could be done locally'.



The Rex Cinema Show from Chagford started to hire the hall for one night a week for £1 per session.

The Hunt Ball, held at the hall, Christmas 1947

The Clerk to the Parish Council wrote to ask about the use of the hall for young people in the parish and a meeting was called to discuss.



1947

The South Zeal Social Club started using the hall for £5 for the first year with the rent to be waived for the first year, Hall rents were set at £1 for dances, (plus 5/- for the piano), 5/- for whist drives, or 7/6 with fires.



A party held in The Reading Room in 1949, then on the right hand side of the building

1948

It was decided that more chairs were needed and blinds should be made for the windows. The former were bought for £2.5.0 each and the blinds were ordered from Blatchford & Ash in Okehampton.

1949

An estimate was received from the Electric Light Company for providing and fixing a 10 gallon boiler for heating water for the sum of £16.18.0. Once installed, a charge of 2/6 was made for all dances for the use of it.

The Secretary of the Women's Institute had written to ask about curtains and lighting of the platform [stage], but this was put on hold due to other work being undertaken at this time.

The Parish Council wrote to ask if the war memorial in the hall for the Great War could be extended to include the names of those who had given their lives in the last war. Mr Gratton was asked to estimate for the work.

Waste water drainage specifications were received and it was decided to go out to tender. Mr H Bradley was successful in his estimate for £55.10.0.

The Social Club, formed in 1946 had now grown and they felt that they could pay more rent. The reading room rent was increased from £5 to £10 per year and 'the committee also decided to abolish the reading room being used as a bar in the future'.

1950

It was mentioned that some ground at the back of the hall, the property of Mr Avery could be obtained. Enquiries were to be made about the price. By the next meeting

Mr Avery had offered to sell the piece of land to the Victory Hall Committee. The land being to the extent of 8ft 3 ins and the width of hall.

The Committee unanimously agreed. At a subsequent meeting it was felt that the piece of land wasn't large enough and it

was agreed to try and purchase 'to the extent of 16ft 6 ins'. Mr Avery later advised that he was only prepared to sell the original smaller piece of land. In addition the purchase should include a clause 'to the effect that the land taken over should be used for the extension and improvement of the present sanitary accommodation.' The additional land was purchased.



The Air Scouts parading in 1950 or '51, showing part of the hall's frontage



The Girl Guides had asked for a fire guard, which they thought they needed when the children were there. The Committee thought they and the Brownies were 'not paying enough' rent and charges were increased.

Mr Ronald Styles, Secretary of the Beacon Players requested 'to meet a deputation from The Players... to discuss proposed structural alterations.' A reply was sent 'informing that when the time came ... [they] would be given the opportunity to state their views.'

1951

Plans for the alteration and extension of the hall had been drawn up and a parish meeting was held in January, where the plans were approved by the parishioners present. The original surveyor's fee for drawing up specifications was thought high and Mr J Jevons, an architect in Sticklepath was asked for his opinion instead. At the April meeting Mr Jevons was asked to go ahead with preparing the specifications as soon as possible. A grant for the alterations was applied for from the Society of Social Service.

The clock in the hall, having 'been stopped for some time' was sent for repair to Mr Cornish of Okehampton.

1952

The Beacon Players had written again about 'the work that had been proposed to be done [to the stage]', the Secretary was asked to write and let them know that what they proposed should be done. The sum of £7 was requested from The Players for repairing the stage and that no work should be done on Sundays. Plans for a proposed extension to the apron stage were presented. Two estimates were given, £36 and £24 for materials and the work would be done voluntarily by the Drama Society.

The caretaker asked for an increase in his salary, which was raised from £18 to £20 per annum.

South Zeal United Football Club wrote to ask if photos of the football team could be hung in the hall, the committee was unanimously in favour.

A meeting of the Coronation Committee proposed that the Victory Hall should be let free of charge for all events in connection with the coronation. Instead a reduced fee was agreed.

1953

It was thought that the now completed alterations to the stage were 'a good job done.'

'A new grate 'should be fixed', also a long table and 3 new trestles should be had.

'The electric wires were thought to be getting worn.' An estimate for £35.10.0 from the Electric Light Company, Okehampton for re wiring, additional lights and other repairs to the electric lights in the hall was accepted.

The conveyances of the land sold by Mr Avery were 'deposited in the Vestry of the Parish Church.'

'The carnival, being held again this year. The committee would welcome a tableau in support of The Victory Hall'. They would 'do their best to get one.'

Tenders were received for works to the end wall of the hall, more information was requested. A quote for £55.0.0 from Lentern Bros. was later accepted.

1954

The final bill from Lentern Bros. for works to the hall and Reading Room was £64.0.0 [work not specified]. This was paid.

The wages were increased to £12.0.0 per annum for Mrs Gratton the Caretaker who had been in post for the past 14 years. She resigned later that year.

A model of proposed alterations to the stage were presented and approved.

It was noted that the hall was paying income tax and had been for several years. 'Enquiries were made about the matter.' By the next meeting the tax of £11.19.11 had been refunded by the Inland Revenue.

The Coronation Committee presented the hall with an electric kettle.

[Public liability] insurance was proposed for accidents arising on the premises.



1955

The condition of the roof was to be examined.

An erection of a proscenium to the stage had been proposed and tenders for £150 and £130 had been received, Mr A J Counter's lower bid was accepted.

An attempt to clear the drains in front of the hall had been unsuccessful and an inspection pit was needed, later cleared by the next meeting.

The annual accounts balance in had was £149.18.10. Hire charges were increased to dances £3.10.0 for two nights, £2.0.0 for one night. Big whist drives 25/- plus 5/- boiler fee, ordinary whist drives 10/- plus same boiler fee, wedding reception £2.5.0, day hire £1.1.0. Fees for user groups were also increased, not all successfully, notably the Parish Council who disputed paying for use of the hall.

1956

Four fire buckets were to be purchased, two with water and two with sand, they to be painted red.

The primary school applied for permanent use of the hall for P.T. and folk dance classes.

Improvement grant opportunities from the Council of Social Services were explored.

Rate relief was claimed under the new Rating and Valuation (Miscellaneous Provision Act) 1955, made more complex as the 'Men's Club Room' was rated separately.

The South Tawton Agricultural Show was disbanded and they handed their funds of £50 to the hall, along with equipment.

New kitchen crockery was requested.

1957

The caretaker's wages was increased to £26.0.0 per annum.

Colonel H.C. Kingsford-Lethbridge offered a fete in aid of hall funds to be held at Wood.

A grant application to The Yeo Bequest was made for hall improvements. The fund administrators 'earmarked £500 towards renovation...

on condition that a like sum is raised in, or on behalf of the parish for the same purpose.' If more funds were raised the Bequest would also consider increasing the grant offer. An appeal was to be made at the next Parish Meeting.

Improvement works considered were 'improving the cloakroom and lavatory accommodation, better facilities for serving refreshments, redecoration.'

It was agreed to try to raise the funds in the next 12 months by asking each parish organisation to run one show during the year, poultry whist drive, fete and asking the Carnival Committee to donate their profits for year. One potential benefactor offered £5 if 19 others did the same. Importantly, an application for a Ministry of Education Grant was agreed.

It was learnt that village halls used for music and dancing now needed to be inspected by the Fire Officer before they licence the building. After the subsequent inspection, an emergency exit and illuminated exit sign fit independent of the main system were required.

The amount insured 'on the hall and furniture be increased to £6,300 and third party accident to £20,000.'

It was hoped to provide a car for the carnival procession.

1958

Following communication with The Ministry of Education regarding a grant, 'the Chief Education Officer of Devon County Council advised that *'the management of the Victory Hall be vested in a newly constituted Management Committee on which all the voluntary organisations in the parish should be invited to be represented. Two members of the general public be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and the Committee to have the power to co-opt two additional members. The Parish Council to remain as Custodian Trustees'*. This was forwarded to the Parish Council for approval and was adopted.

At the subsequent meeting the Committee agreed to 'continue to serve for the time being.' At the meeting on June 20th the Secretary was 'instructed to submit the request to the Ministry of Education to make a scheme for the management of the hall on the lines of the National Council of Social Services model trust deed.' At the meeting on 23rd June, Mr J Wright vacated the Chair to signify the resignation of the old Committee. Officers were then re-elected and members as per the



new constitution model. That November a grant application had been made and April 1959 should be considered to modernisations.

Alterations to the heating and lighting were considered. 'Heating by electricity - this was considered to be impractical on account of cost'. Quotes minuted were 'to move and re-erect boiler £36, to oil fire present boiler with a 225 gallon tank in roof £270, to install new boiler £388, to provide an extra radiator £33, electrical fittings for new kitchen and dressing rooms £99.'

It was resolved that the fund known as The South Tawton Community Centre Fund be transferred to the Victory Hall Committee. It comprised £98.17.7 in National Savings Certificates. The trustees of the fund being the Chair of the Parish Council and the Vicar. The would be added to the renovation appeal fund.

By July the 'Victory Hall Special Appeals Committee' had raised £557 8s 11d. Much thanks was given. The Yeo Bequest was written to stating that £656.6.6 had been raised within the community. The Bequest later replied that in addition to the initial £500 they would consider a further allocation.

A 'rough estimate' of the renovation costs 'amounted to between £2,300 and £2,800.'

A parishioner drew 'the attention of the committee to the inadequate seating in the hall, and to stress the extreme discomfort suffered by audiences at shows staged in the hall.' After initial rejection due to the other works needing doing this was rejected, but by the next meeting costs was to be considered.

1959

January - the plans for the improvements were presented and unanimously approved. However, by February a new plan was outlined, with a Committee Room as 'big as possible, say 20 ft by 16 ft'. '...it would [also] be possible to provide a plan with a passage behind the stage with minimum addition lavatories and cloakroom, with a saving in cost of £300.' The revised plan was adopted.

50 wooden folding chairs at 11/- each were ordered.

South Zeal Social Club bought the Drill Hall which was reported to possibly mean alterations to the present plans. They ceased using the hall in June.

March - the accounts 'showed that income in the past year had been just about sufficient to meet expenses, but left no margin for repairs.'

The Inspector for the Ministry of Education had met at the hall and thought that 'possibly the improved heating and certainly the smoothing of the floor would be considered as maintenance and therefore ineligible for a grant.'

Tenders for the improvements were opened and only one contractor had tendered for all items specified. Messrs. R.J. Counter's tender of £1,969.12.4. was successful. This was divided into two sections of work, part 1 being £1,383.80.4. October - approval given to start on parts 1 and 2 of the works from 1st March 1960'. Various changes in start dates later ensued and eventually the works commenced on 17th April 1961.

A stock book for crockery and kitchen utensils was compiled and a charge of 1/- would be made for its use in future.

August - A letter had been received from The Ministry of Education confirming a grant of £830. Yet at the same meeting a subsequent letter had been received from same 'stating that, because of the attitude of the Charity Commissioners, no grant could be made.'

October - Possibly due to the Charity Commission ruling, it was learnt that the Parish Council would be required to make the formal application for the grant to the Ministry of Education and for the new constitution Scheme. The Parish Council was asked to go ahead.

Letters were received from the Parish Council regarding among other things the sharing of documents including a request that the deeds of the hall be lodged with the PC. It was agreed to do this as soon as the deeds were received back from The Ministry of Education.

Defects in the hall were reported as 'leaking roof, outer door lock defective, door to kitchen locked with no key, lane window almost falling out.'

1960

The building fund stood at £1,176.15.6 including £23.1.8 interest, with the current account balance being £56/1/8, around the same as in previous years. A grant of a further £300 from The Yeo Bequest was now subject to the completion of the Scheme from The Ministry of Education.



The grant of £690 from The Ministry was accepted.

Heating installation quotation update - 'Initial cost £343, running costs est. 10d per hour. Electric heaters - initial cost for installation £300, running costs 2/6 per hour between 6.30pm and 7.00 am only. Electrically fired boiler. Initial cost for installation £250. Running costs 3/- per hour same evening and nighttime hours.

A draft plan for lavatory accommodation in The Committee Room had been prepared, which would cost £300 to £350 and was intended to be treated as a separate project for which extra money would have to be raised. At a later date the suggestion of them being public lavatories was made but an additional grant from the Ministry of Education excluded this possibility.

It was agreed that the fireplace in the Committee Room be replaced with an electric fire, paid for out of the building fund.

There still being working chimneys in the hall, Mr Madders was asked to sweep them and clean the boiler flue.

A Carnival tableau was agreed and 'every Committee member should take a collecting box.' After tableau expenses, the net proceeds from the Carnival Committee was £3.1.0 with £23.7.5 raised in the [hall's] collection boxes.

The Caretaker's wages were increased to £4 per month.

1961

9th February, the Victory Hall's change in Constitution was complete, reproduced on the following pages.

When the hall's constitution changed in 1961, the then user groups were included in the constitution and had to be represented on the Committee. This continues to this day. At that time they were South Zeal United Methodist Church, South Zeal County Primary School, South Zeal and District British Legion, Ditto (Women's section), South Zeal Women's Institute, South Tawton branch of the Mother's Union, South Tawton branch of the Old Age pensioner's Association, South Zeal Men's Club, the Beacon Players, the Merry Go Rounders and South Zeal Guide's Association.

The Chairman emphasised 'the importance of the four members of the general public, who would not be representatives of any particular

organisations, and added that it would be helpful if any present Committee members would interview suitable persons who were considered likely to accept nomination for election.'

Revisions to the renovation specifications - it was noted that if the full scheme was carried out a further £450 may be required ...this would not be a difficult amount to raise and that it was preferable to finish the whole scheme at once.

Whilst the building works were to be undertaken [and no hire income was possible] it was suggested that all organisations using the hall help by continuing to pay a regular subscription to hall funds. It was hoped to re open the hall on 8th July, following the 17th April start date.

It was agreed to carry out a house to house collection in the Parish for the remaining funds and the Parish was sub-divided into areas with Committee members allocated to each.

The re-opening would include a buffet tea and dance with The Black Diamonds.

16th May 1961 - the outgoing Committee formally disbanded and the new Committee met directly afterwards.

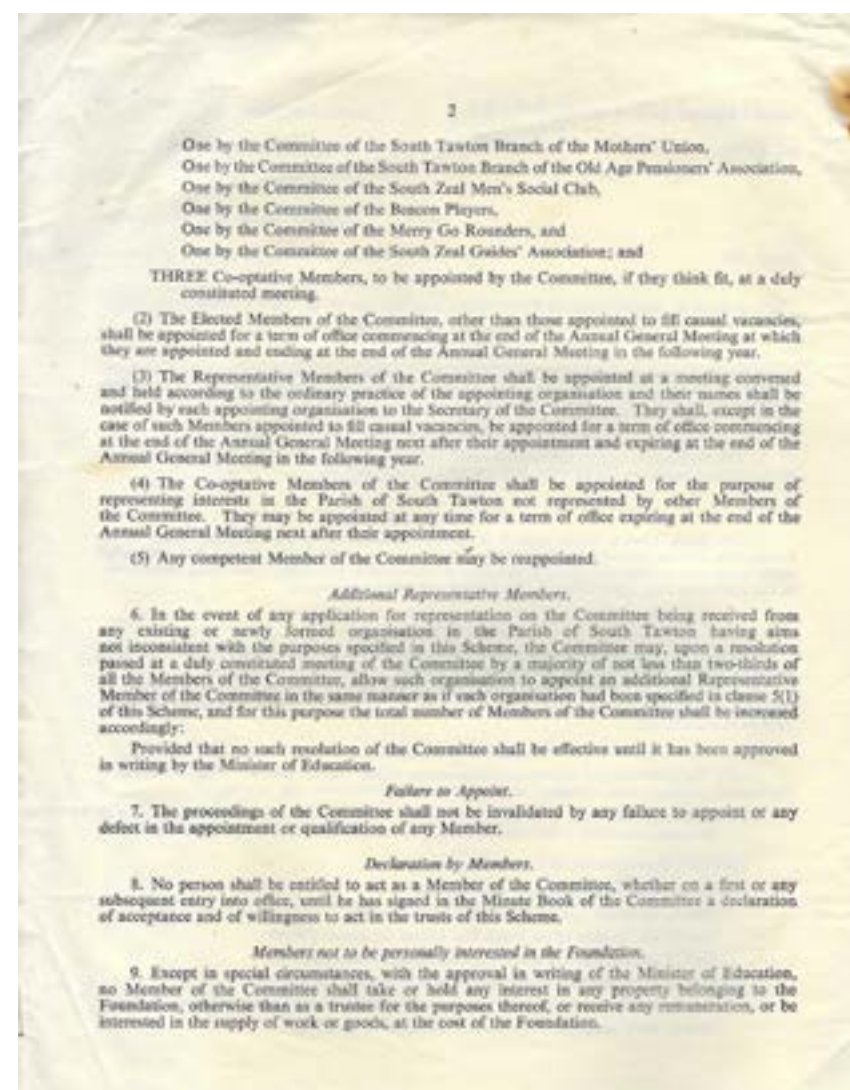
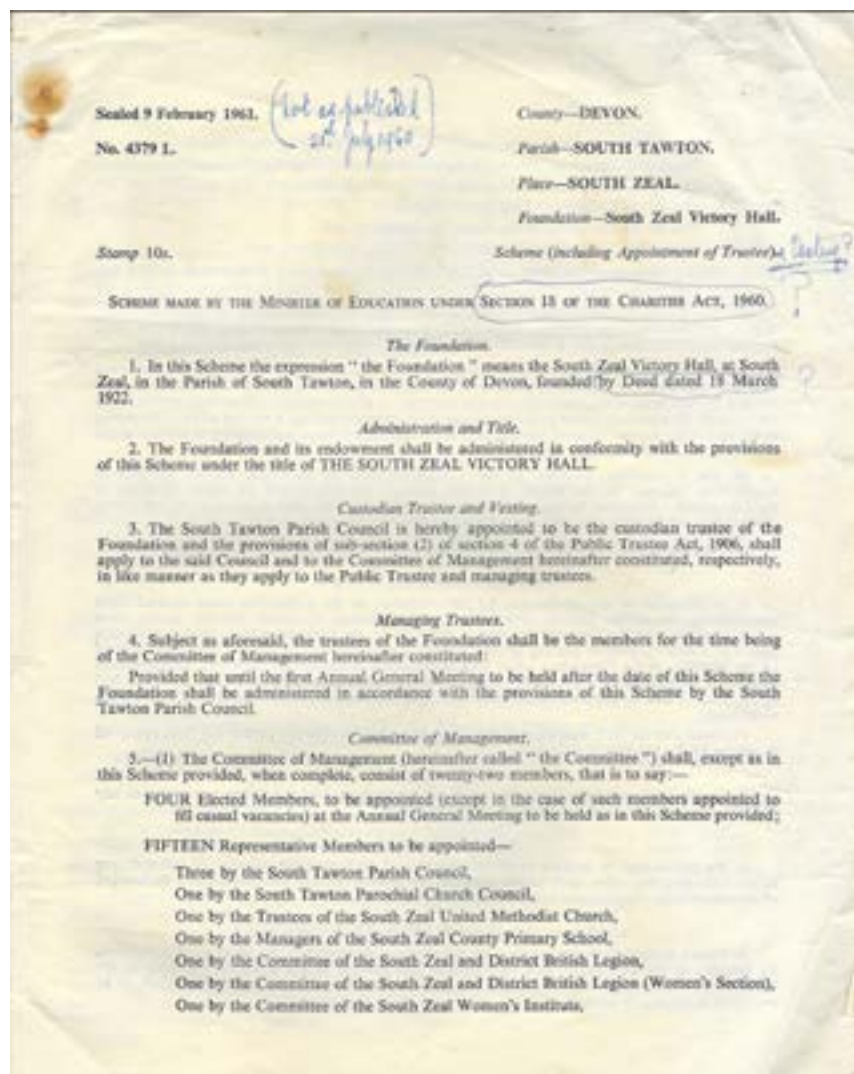
A pantomime production in the hall in the mid 1960's

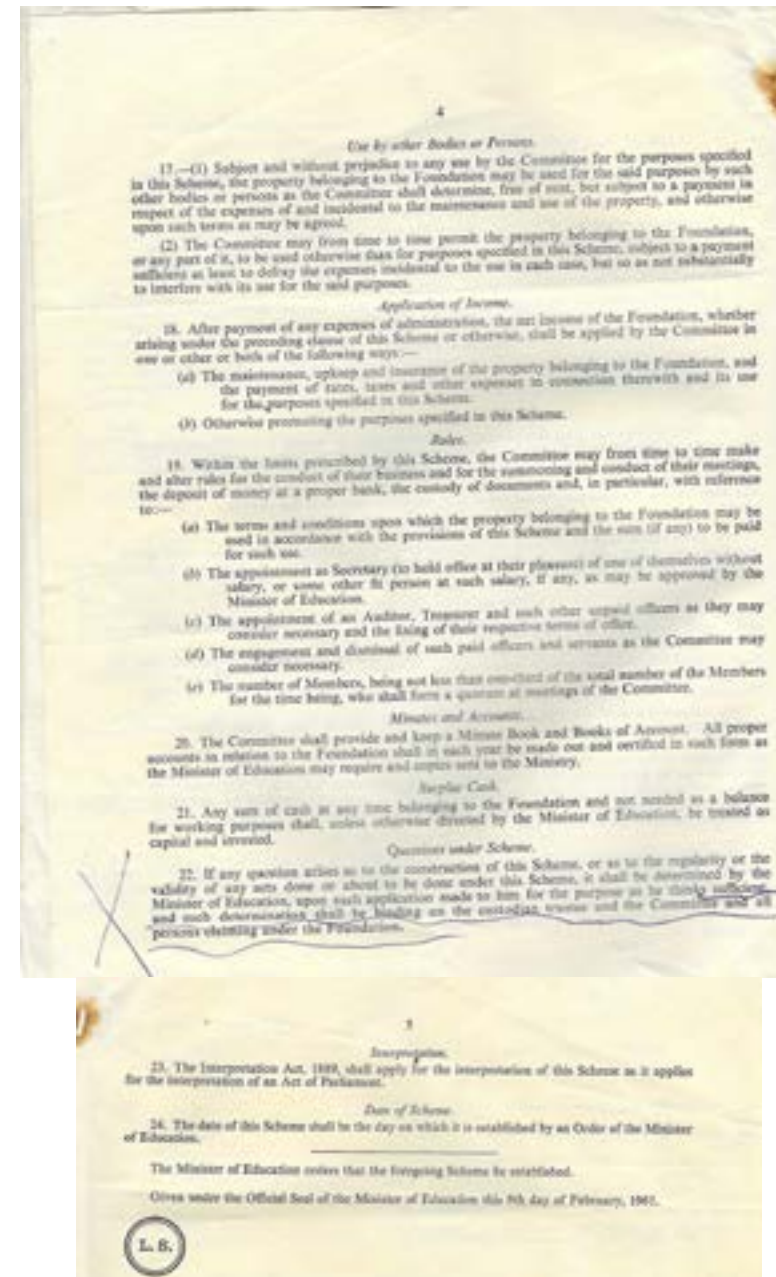
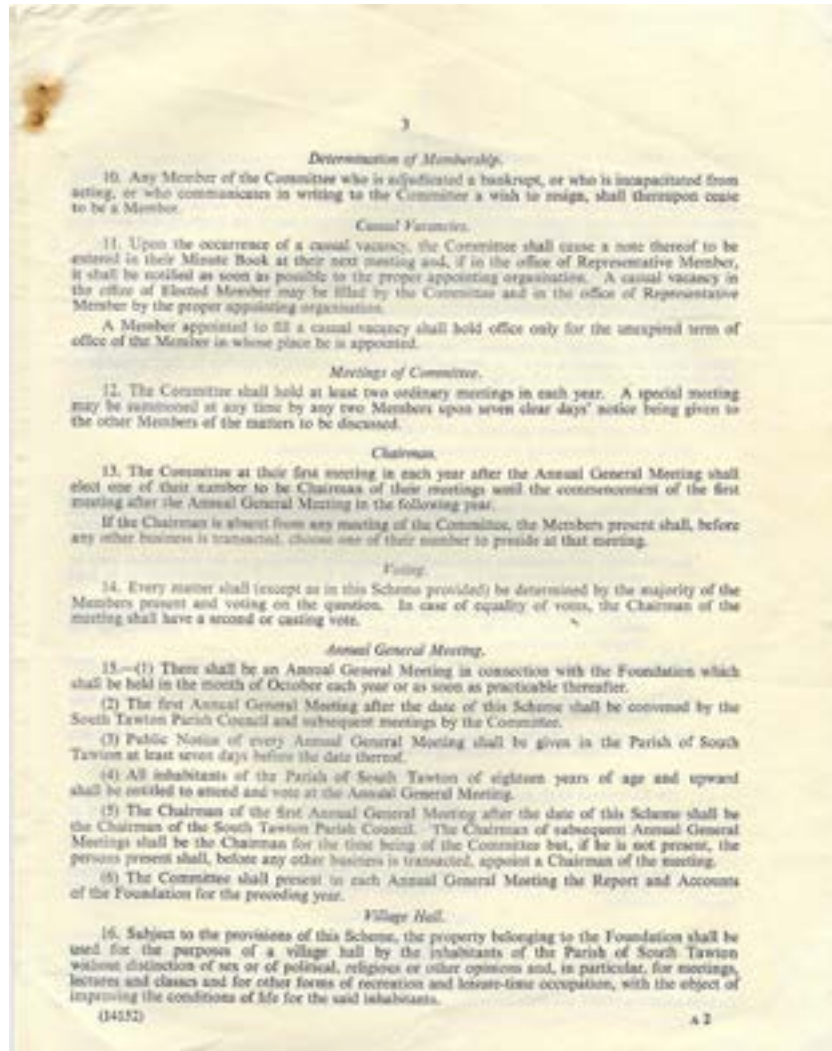
{Very unfortunately, the minute book from 1962 to 1971 is missing}





The Hall's 1961 Constitution







*Above:
'Beauty
and the Beast',
from the mid
1960's*



*Right:
A Christian
Stewardship
meeting in the
main hall in
the 1960's.*

1972

It was still the case that any changes to the groups with representative members on the Committee were having to apply for the changes to the [now] Department of Education and Science.

A replacement piano was offered to the hall, the third in its history. Much of the crockery was again found to have been broken and not been replaced by hirers, it was agreed to bring up all items to 100 of each.

The roof of the Committee room and the playgroup cupboard were badly leaking and the outside of the hall needed redecorating (still the case in 1974).

1974

Water consumption had risen from 83,000 to 136,000 gallons, presumed to be down to leaking under the kitchen floor which was 'temporarily' repaired.

The hall floor was sanded and resurfaced. It was reported as 'most successful and definitely improving the appearance of the hall'.

A new caretaker was needed and an increase in wages to £5 per week was suggested.

1977

New water boiler purchased. Toilets redecorated. No charge for the hall on The Queen's Silver Jubilee Day on June 7th.

1978

Grant request to Parish Council for replacement of faulty pipe in ladies toilet and felt for flat roof.

A donated piano was sold for £10.

1979

Existing tables would be renovated as soon as possible.

Leaking in the Playgroup storeroom had made several wooden toys unusable. It was thought to have been caused by overflow pipe.

Floor scrubbing and sealing was to be done in school holidays. Repairing damp in the crockery cupboards [caused by flat roof leaks] estimated at £1,000 for re-roofing and £60-£80 for bitumen repairs.



1980

Major repairs to the flat roof and repairs to resultant damp in the hall were carried out for a cost of £1,962.00.

A grant for a further £100 from The Yeo Bequest was received for repair work and a further amount of £400 promised from the Parish Council once repair work was complete.

1981

By 1981, the user groups had changed to the Women's Institute, South Zeal Football Club, Recreation Ground, Parochial Church Council, Primary School, Guides and Brownies, Scouts and Cubs, Old Age Pensioners, Pre School Playgroup, Methodist Church, Youth Club and the Social Club.

1982

It was agreed to partition part of ladies cloakroom for storage space.

Following questions asked by The Committee of Management to The Charity Commission, the following letter of clarification dated 5th August 1982 had been received and was reproduced in the minute book:

'Section 2 of The Charities Act 1960 conferred on the Minister of Education (now The Secretary of State for Education and Science) certain functions in relation to educational charities. These functions were extinguished under the provisions of the Education Act 1973 and those educational charities formerly dealt with by the Department were transferred to The Charity Commission.'

The Victory Hall was originally founded by deed dated 18th March 1922. The purposes for which the property was to be held were not clearly defined in the deed and for this and other legal reasons it was necessary to establish a scheme to provide for the proper administration of the charity.

Thus the scheme dated 9th February 1961 was established to regulate the charity. This scheme has now of course been varied to some extent by the provisions of the Scheme dated 19th May 1982 [now called the Principal Scheme].

A custodian trustee can take no part in the administration of a Charity but simply holds the land in trust for the charity. The day to day administration of the Charity is entirely in the hands of the Committee of Management (as the Managing Trustees) and the Committee is

ultimately responsible for taking decisions relating to the management of the property.'

The 'Principal Scheme' rules allow for 3 co-options. There are also only 3 Parish Council representatives.

Fund raising was held for replacement stage curtains, a total of £222.52 was raised.

1983

The stage curtains fund now has £358 in hand.

July - Front of stage curtains had been delivered and hung. Purchased from Craftsman Cleaners Ltd for £401. Old curtains, once re-proofed and cleaned to be used for side of stage.

Fire precaution work needed to be carried out and grants were applied for from the Community Council and Northcott Trust, amongst others.

A grant from the Parish Council of £500 for external decorations was now agreed to be used for this work instead, as well as a further £150. The work included redecoration of the main hall ceiling, fire proofing the committee room doors and alterations to fire exits.

1984

Fund Raising Committee; a house to house collection was made on 30th April.



The hall in the 1980's



1986

Electrical repairs had been completed and steel sinks and revised draining boards fitted. The Parish Council donated 50 chairs.

1989

A replacement boiler was required. The Yeo Bequest had promised £600 towards the replacement. One was ordered and the new boiler has a timer and programmer. Further fundraising for its payment required.

Extract from 1989 AGM report from Chairman, Patrick Shaw:
'The Victory Hall continues to be fully used. During school terms it is hired on some two to twelve occasions weekly; this very full usage is highly desirable but carries with it its own problems in terms of heart and tear and cleaning.

There is still much to be done to bring the Hall up to the higher standard expected of Village Halls in these more affluent times and I find our rate of progress disappointing. The problems are mostly financial, one would have hoped that during the current period of almost saturation usage the income from hall lettings would have allowed the Hall either to build up reserves against leaner years, or to have sufficient funds to employ tradesmen to carry out the necessary redecoration and alterations to the hall. But this is not so and this year the failure of the central heating boiler and the consequent expense has meant deferring yet again the desired improvements to the hall. There is no doubt that the hall's present financial position is unsatisfactory....'

1990

Extract from The Beacon, February 1990

'The Victory Hall has had a tough year in 1989. The central heating boiler gave out and had to be replaced, the electrical wiring has had to be inspected and made safe and the splendid new lights installed in the hall last Spring have been used to the full and cost the hall more than anticipated, and then we had a water leak! As a consequence we have had to spend some £2,000 which we have not got! The generosity of the Yeo Bequest, and the Parish Council have got us out of our immediate embarrassment but the hall's financial reserves have gone and the Management Committee must work to rebuild these.'

Extract from The Beacon, May 1990

'As part of the general fund raising programme for the hall the Victory Hall Management Committee are arranging an exhibition in the hall on 30th June and 1st July. There will be three categories of events:

The South Tawton Archive photographs of the village, map plans and photographs showing the development of the villages in the period 1945 to the present day, the clothes worn by villagers and others during the past 150 years.' The exhibition proved hugely popular, raising £579. Additionally the hall received donations of £55 the total raised was £634.'

September - The recently formed Improvement Sub Committee had met and discussed preliminary plans. Two schemes will be prepared for consideration -

1. Stripping back the stage area and perspex roofed store; to refurbish with w.c's including one for disabled use, cloakroom and purpose built store. Refurbishment of the kitchen, creating a hatchway to the committee room for bar/ food service.
2. As 1. But utilising roof space above the stage to provide games room.

The Management Committee as a whole approved the theory of the major improvement scheme, Grants to be explored on the basis of a scheme costing £15,000 to £50,000.

October - Priced on a square foot basis a very rough estimate had been obtained based upon the plans submitted.

Ground floor plan £27,000

As above but with upstairs rooms but excluding cover stage area £17,000 extra

Kitchen and bar area priced separately £7,000

After much work on the Committee's part, the modernisation of the hall at this time comprised the following three phases:

- The provision of disabled toilets, new ladies' toilets and an update of the mens' toilets.
- The provision of new stores including the conversion of the lean to at the rear of the building.
- The conversion of existing kitchen into two rooms, a utility area, with no cooking facilities and a reorganised kitchen with the cooker etc. separated from the utility area.

Each of the stages was planned for execution in successive steps as funds came in.

Extract from The Beacon, November 1990

'Alterations [are planned for] a through overhaul of the toilets, including the introduction of a disabled persons toilet; the complete revision of storage facilities offered to contract hirers; the provision of



a utility room for use by hirers in need of water and workspace other than for food preparation and a revamped kitchen and bar area.

These alterations will be costly and will probably be phased over two to three years. ... obviously money will need to be raised for these improvements, grants are available from the parish, District and County Councils, but to qualify for these the hall Committee will need to raise a considerable sum by its own efforts. They are therefore very grateful to the anonymous parishioner who has given £500 to hall funds and to South Zeal Recreation Ground for their generous offer of the proceeds from Zale Fair in 1991.'

1991

January - Alterations to the hall. Grants were available from the Community Council. West Devon Borough Council and Parish Council plus committee fundraising. 'If we can raise 1/3 of the money with our own efforts plus PC, WDBC and Community Council will give us equal amounts.'

Extract from The Beacon, May 1991

'Victory Hall Modernisation Appeal - 17 gardens will be open for inspection on Saturday 15th June. The gardens are kept for the owner's pleasure (not for opening to the public!) and have interesting and unusual plants and solutions to local problems.'

Extract from The Beacon, July 1991

'The net proceeds from donations and sales of programmes, plants, cakes, teas, coffee and lunch was £686.90. The South Tawton Parish Council recently added a grant of £1,000 so that the 'modernisation fund' now stands at £2,469.'

Extract from The Beacon, August 1991

'Victory Hall Modernisation Appeal - The Victory Hall Management Committee are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Recreation Ground Association in giving the entire proceeds of their most successful Fayre to the Victory Hall Modernisation Appeal. This donation when added to earlier donations, to the receipts from the Gardens Day and the promised grant from the Parish Council brings the Appeal Fund to £3,494.

The Management Committee must now await the approval of the grants from the West Devon District and the Community Council before they can start work on Stage 1 of the improvements. It will therefore be 1992 before the donors to the Appeal can see the rewards for their generous efforts.'

December - Renovation schedule of works presently comprise 're-furbishment of gents, building of disabled toilet facility, new ladies' toilets and floors. No second disabled entrance at present. Change existing fire door to disabled entrance.'

1992

January - Development fund currently stands at £4,252. Tenders received from four builders. In February, Mr K Redstone's tender was successful, with work commencing at the end of the month.

April - The 'fundraising thermometer' outside the hall for the development fund had reached £5,600. Grants coming in amounted to £12,900. A recent dinner had raised £750.15.

Extract from The Beacon, May 1992

'May 25th - 'In this first year of the hall's second modernisation (the first was in 1961 when coal fires went out and oil came in), the hall Committee are planning an exhibition on the Bank Holiday Monday, May 25th to honour the founders of the hall and so far as it is possible, reproduce the sort of days entertainment that was held when the stones were laid. There will also be the opportunity for visitors to see the recent improvements which form part of the current modernisation.

The exhibition will be on display in the hall from 10.30am - 12.30pm, when tea and coffee will be available, and from 3.00pm - 5.00pm when Cream Teas will be on sale. The exhibition will again be on show in the evening from 7.00pm, when Bill Murray will present local talent, including Ned & Martin, Burlington Bertie from South Zeal, and other star performers...'

That year, other fundraising activities included Open Gardens day and a sponsored walk, an autumn concert and quiz.

Stage a. of the modernisation was completed in the summer of 1992 at a much lower cost than originally anticipated. Consequently, stage b. was brought forward and planned to be started in 1992/3. However when the specifications for the work were written it was felt to be technically unsatisfactory.' To rectify this The Planning Officer suggested the appointed builder should maintain close contact with the planning authority as work progressed, which was done.

Application for a £15,000 grant for the internal alterations was made.



Sketches of the proposed work to give the front of the hall a facelift were shown. Dartmoor National Park had developed the concepts and would be partly financing the project.

1993

A ban on smoking in the hall was discussed but considered unworkable.

Water was leaking in the Committee room again.

K Redstone Builders have started on the next stage of the development project.

Fundraising events planned were a soirée, guided moor walk, Open Gardens Day, quiz, spring clean auction and dinner.

The rebuilding of the back store was completed in February.

A working party was organised in April to decorate the hall interior.

Plans for the modernisation of the hall's frontage were discussed; railings to the front and a 'Notice Boards to be sited on a platform at the bottom of the steps, Dartmoor National Park suggested a unified communal notice board. The committee agreed.

An 'Amended plan for disabled access to the front of the hall was presented. 'Two objections, a) corner on slope b) flat platform needed every 10 metres.'

When the the hall frontage plans were discussed in June the minutes noted that 'Disabled access would not benefit from the present funding and specialist knowledge would be required.' The present plans [without disabled access] were passed. Later unsuccessful efforts were made to include frontage disabled access within the modernisation and it was not a unanimous decision to progress without this facility. Total modernisation money spent/ allocated amounted to £20,489.69.

There was a warning that when the winter fuel bills came there would be 'insufficient funds to meet them... at the moment almost all fund-raising is going into the modernisations with only hire charges going into the general running account.'

In August fire doors had to be urgently installed in order to comply with alterations to fire regulations, enabling the Hall's Entertainments

Licence to be renewed. The cost of £531 came out of the Development Fund.

Planned fund raising events for the later part of that year were a quiz, halloween dinner auction and a 'Meet the Village' event.

1994

Of concern was the continuing annual deficit between income from lettings and running costs, currently around £300. It had been calculated that an increase in hire charges of 15% should cover this.

This year's fundraising events were a dinner auction (raising £830), concert, Dartmoor Pixie

Band folk evening, story telling evening and open gardens day. The latter raised £1,130 with up to 300 visitors, it being thought that the accompanying radio interview had helped. Other ideas discussed were a dog show, a supper auction and a guided walk.

Works on the kitchen/ committee room modernisation started with the conversion of the caretaker's cupboard into a bar. The roof above this area was still leaking and repairs were needed before decoration.

A huge amount of committee member's time was spent on developing and writing grant applications. Their work paid off. Early in the year the Community Council earmarked £2,000 for the hall improvements, with a similar amount in the following financial year. West Devon Borough Council allocated a £2,000 grant for the kitchen improvements in the current year and in August they offered a further grant of



Before the 1990's modernisation



£12,675 for 1995/6, providing it was match funded by the Community Council. A further grant of £750 was agreed by the Parish Council, with the same the following year.

The cost of the modernisation to the frontage is likely to be between £15,000 - £20,000, forming the major part of the 1995 grant applications.

Suggestions were made to store the parish archive in the 'old WC on the west side of the Committee room.'

Anonymous donations of £1,300 and two for £500 were kindly received during the year.

In order to spread the workload at this critical time in the hall's modernisation, in August a Standing Executive Committee was formed, to meet monthly. The Management Committee granted them executive powers and they would report back to the Management Committee meetings which were held every other month.

In August, monies available in the development fund for the kitchen were £5,737 plus £2,000 from West Devon Borough Council. A revised specification for the kitchen works was worked out as £7,080 and work started in September.

At the Annual General Meeting, a message from the previous Chairman Patrick Shaw congratulated the present Chairman, Wendy Redstone 'for her drive and enthusiasm that had revived the management committee and made the degree of achievement of her objectives remarkable.'

At the same meeting, Wendy's Chairman's speech noted '*The invaluable support of the whole community has been steadfastly maintained, thus enabling the rolling programme of improvements to continue.*'

1995

By now, a second and even more ambitious alteration and renovation project was planned as shown in the following extract from the grant request supporting document prepared by The Management Committee:

*'Modernisation of The Victory Hall, South Zeal
South Zeal is a busy and growing village with a population of around 800, and a further 400 in South Tawton. The South Zeal Village Hall (The Victory Hall) was built in 1922 as a memorial to those who*

served in the 1914-18 War. The hall is central to village and parish activity and is used to capacity by the very many local organisations including the 150 pupil South Tawton Primary School.

Modifications were made to the hall in 1960, but by 1990 much was needed to bring it into sound structural order and to ensure it met today's needs. An appeal was opened and over the past three years some £20,000 was raised to provide new toilets (including a disabled toilet), store rooms for the regular Hall users, re-flooring of the hall passages and re-roofing where needed. Of this £20,000, village fund raising activities and donations provided £13,000.

Future plans involve the refurbishment of the kitchen; the provision of cupboards for the additional school gym and P.E. apparatus required by the National Curriculum; the provision of a store for the parish archives; repairs to electrical wiring, new curtains, new chairs and alterations to the stage. Additionally, with a partial grant from the Dartmoor National Park, the front of the hall will be given a 'face lift'. The total cost of these works is estimated at £42,774.

The village has an excellent reputation of self help, for example over the past 25 years a recreation ground with football pitch, tennis courts, childrens' playground and a pavilion has been provided by voluntary subscription. In view of this, and recent experience with the first stage of the Hall improvement [early '90's], the Hall Committee face with some confidence the problem of raising money to complete this project. A series of activities have been planned for the next twelve months which should raise £6,000 to add to the accumulated fund, giving a total of £10,400. Hopefully public bodies and charitable agencies will help fill the gap between funds available and the funds required.'

In January, the next planned fundraising event was a Jazz evening in February with Ron Purver and the Riviera Stompers.

The kitchen was still being completed, including new flooring and equipment, to include a warming cupboard, cooker, fridge and water heater. £1,500 would be enough to complete this work.

That month the tenders for the frontage work of the hall were received. There were two phases of the work, with the total cost being around £21,500 net. K Redstone Builders won the tender and they were asked to start work as soon as possible with phase 1, with the hope for phase 2 once grant money was available. Work started in



February and by April it was agreed to ask Mr Redstone to proceed with phase 2.

The March meeting confirmed the grant from Dartmoor National Park as £5,000. The Yeo Bequest granted £500. A major grant of £12,675 from the Community Council was awarded in May.

The Foundation Stones at the front of the hall had their leadwork repaired in time for the V.E. day commemoration activity.

In May, the Women's Institute had given a clock for the Committee Room in memory of Marjory Holman.

In September, it was suggested that the old toilets in the Committee room 'be removed entirely and cupboards for the caretaker and the history archive built along the east wall.' Also 'to ask the bus company to move the stop sign and the bus timetable [from outside the hall] to a better position.'

The replacement of the tables with lighter and more easily stackable alternatives was proposed.

In November, plans for the redecoration of the hall's interior were presented. As well as painting, stage curtains and track, a stage lighting bar and replacement supplementary heating were planned.

The hall's frontage was complete and the hall had received third prize in the Edward Moorshead award. This Award was presented in memory of the former chairman of the Dartmoor National Park committee from 1985 to 1989 and given for significant contributions to National Park purposes.

1996

Grant applications had been submitted to The Carnegie Trust for archive storage in The Committee Room (£4,000 awarded) and to the Foundation for Sports and Arts for redevelopment of the stage front.

The old boiler chimney was leaking water onto the passage outside the kitchen and Mr Redstone (builder) was asked to remove it.

In March the tenders for the stage front were considered and work was to start in the Easter school holidays.

An anonymous donation of £500 had been made for replacing the

school P.E. equipment that is used in the hall and a 'thank you' was put in The Beacon for an earlier anonymous donation of £3,000.

By April the minutes reported that the main hall floor had been sanded and re-varnished. New stage curtains bought and hung, more chairs and trestle tables bought, as well as the equipment for the kitchen. But fundraising was 'still essential' to raise an outstanding amount of £4,500.

In June, the drama group outlined plans to improve the stage lighting and drawings for the new cupboards, for the south wall of the Committee Room were presented.

Suggestions were made that once everything is finished an opening ceremony should be planned. 'A tea time event, stretching into the evening was suggested as the best way of catering for officials, who would want to come in work time and local contributors to the modernisation programme would prefer something later.'

That summer, the wooden panels in the main hall were lightly sanded and re-stained.

A Coat of Arms for the proscenium arch, loosely based on that of Tony de Sale and designed by Margaret Cash, was then painted by Steve Tyler and placed at the head of the arch.

Fund raising - a supper auction was arranged for November, following the success of the previous event two years earlier. Another jazz night was planned for the following January and a quiz night for February.

Works in the Committee Room to incorporate the cupboards for the history archive was started. Also that year, additional lighting in the main hall was completed.

1997

The date for the official opening of the modernised hall was set for Friday 14th March, with Colonel Leavers asked to officially open the hall. The kitchen was to be redecorated beforehand. The Committee Room was to be complete by 8th March. Everyone who attended the opening had enjoyed the event and 'the Committee were congratulated by lots of people on the work that had been carried out.' A second 'opening' was also arranged for 22nd May for the benefit of further photographs and a more relaxed celebration.



The 1997 opening ceremony of the modernised hall



The Methodist chapel and the Parochial Church Council were currently not being represented on the Committee and each were asked to provide a member.

1998

The February minutes reported that the Foundation for Sports and the Arts, 'had made a grant of £6,000 for works to be carried out on the stage. Approximately £5,565 had already been spent on the curtains, arch and specialist lighting. The works now needed to be completed as the Foundation wished to inspect the works.'

A specification was sent out to tender to local builders and the modernisation fund still had enough money to pay for the additional works. The successful contractor completed the work by April. After this and two other items, the Modernisation Fund was now spent.



Whilst the hall was now able to cover running costs from hire fees it was still 'felt prudent to continue to fundraise for two events a year in order to develop a contingency fund. Open Gardens Day plus perhaps an Auction Supper or Recipe Tasting.'

The hall after the 1990's modernisation

This year's Open Gardens Day included the following wording in its programme



'South Zeal and District Open Gardens was initiated as a money raising event for the modernisation of the Victory Hall. The modernisation programme was completed this year when the stage area was improved with a grant from the Foundation for Sports and Arts. While fund raising is no longer an urgent matter, running a hall, that is used as extensively as is the Victory Hall, is costly and the Management Committee are continuing to use funds from the Open Gardens event as a contribution towards meeting costs with our raising hire charges to an unreasonable level. Additionally it is well worth while to continue with an event which is as popular as this is, giving as it does, pleasure to local residents, visitors and the people who open their gardens.'

The Chairman's report at the Annual General Meeting noted:
'Last year was a quiet year, with the building improvements being finished. At this moment South Zeal Players were putting in place the final bar lighting system, the work had been funded by the Management Committee but is being carried out by the Players themselves. This is almost the end of the modernisation of the hall, thank you to everyone who has helped in any way. Particularly to Wendy Redstone who has been the driving force behind all the work....'

1999

A coffee morning held before Christmas had raised £301. As it had been a great success an afternoon tea event had been suggested, perhaps for later in the year.

Open Gardens day planning for 20th June noted 'Ploughman's and puddings' would simplify catering. This became the new lunch format. A great success, £1,285 was raised this year. Some of the money was allocated to re-painting the hall exterior.

Replacement tables were considered in two sizes, with a grant of £500 from the Parish Council towards their purchase.

By October, the Foundation For Sports and Arts had inspected the stage works to their satisfaction.

The Chairman's report at the Annual General Meeting noted:
'The hall had had a good year financially... All outstanding alterations ... had been completed and we have a first class hall. It was important to keep it looking smart and well used and we must retain an effective maintenance programme...'

2000

A fund raising coffee morning arranged for February, raising £160. As well as Open Gardens Day (over £1,300 was raised with 290 programmes sold), A Winter Afternoon Tea raised £100.

Exterior windows painted, repairs to outside wall undertaken.

The new tables were delivered in March, being the ones in use today.

A sensor light on the porch was arranged, being installed in 2001.

Hand dryers were fitted, replacing the towel fittings.

2001

It was recommended that the roof needed ongoing attention and a maintenance programme was planned.

A bumper plant sale was planned for the 10th anniversary of Open Gardens day. However due to the later outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease the open gardens were cancelled with the lunches and plant sales still taking place.

The Chairman's report at the Annual General Meeting noted:
'... as a Committee we should be looking at major projects, such as the hall roof, floor etc. Quotes have already been received for the redecoration of the outside of the hall and it was hoped such work would be carried out in Spring 2002.'

2002

May - 30 new chairs bought.

Considerable external decoration and repairs had been completed, with the Parish Council granting £340 to the work.

This year's Open Gardens Day was another great success. Raising £1,373.96.

Redecoration of the inside of the hall was planned for Easter 2003.

At the Annual General Meeting, South Zeal Players presented the hall with a cheque for £800, their profit from a recent Jubilee Celebration Concert.



2003

The tender for the internal redecoration was granted.

Additional fund raising event was a Coffee Morning plus photographic display from the history group in February which was a great success.

Two more cupboards were to be added to the History Group archive, adjacent to the existing.

Subscription to the Community Council of Devon started.

The floor was revarnished in the summer school holidays.

This year, Open Gardens day had its best ever year, raising £1,657.

2004

A hall spring clean was arranged in March, with a request for wider help. It was a great success with lots of volunteers coming along on the day.

Hire fees were increased by around 5%.

A table top sale in April was a huge success raising £325.

This year, South Tawton Parish Council arranged a Parish Day where the community was invited to help do small tasks around the village, followed by a gathering in the Recreation Ground. As part of this, jobs outside the hall such as repainting the railings was completed.

The flat roof, having experienced significant leaking was repaired by a specialist contractor and a small grant made by the Yeo Bequest.

2005

Hire fees were increased by 3%.

Fund raising included a table top sale, a race night a concert by Men of Morchard, also the King's Arms Quiz, raising £207.

A Bonus Ball Club had started in April and was proving a great success with a projected profit of £1,200 in the first year.

Changes to licensing regulations in November from a Public Entertainment License and a Theatre License to the new Premises License,

resulted in a huge amount of work in order to prepare for the new legislation.

2006

It was noted that due to the changes to the licensing regulations last year, the fee of £21 to obtain a Temporary Event Notice where alcohol could be sold would be met by the hirer.

Another successful Spring Clean morning for the hall was held, with everyone enjoying the refreshments of tea and home made cakes.

Open Gardens day raised £1,800, the most to date and a massive help to hall funds.

At the Annual General Meeting the Chairman explained that 2007 would include a review of the hall heating and insulation.

2007

One of the regular hall users, The Youth Club has now closed as had another user group the Short Mat Bowling.

Over the past few years, fund raising for future improvements has been consistent and by the end of the year stood at around £14,500.

It was noted that the hall floor would not be able to be sanded again and polyurethane must not be used.

2008

The clock in the main hall needed to go away for repairs, which would take between 5 to 8 months and the Parish Council had contributed £200 towards its repair.

Once again, the Chairman at the Annual General Meeting reported that *'fund raising for 'a major improvement project, which would undoubtedly arise in the not too distant future' was important. Throughout the year The Open Gardens and Bonus Ball had yet again been great fund raising activities.'*

2009

By January, the clock was back in its rightful place after having been mended.

Along with a quantity surveyor, the architect who had supported the hall with the 1990's modernisation had assessed both the main



building roof and the adjacent flat roof to the right. A cost estimate for the main roof was over £100,000 and the flat roof £50,000. The Committee did agree that the flat roof did need to be sorted and would investigate further. By September, repairs that should last a couple of years to the flat roof had been made.

South Zeal Summer Ball made a donation of £500 to the hall funds.

2010

The development of a website for the hall, or a section of the then village website was first suggested. That autumn, the hall's own website was launched - southzealvictoryhall.org.uk.

The inside of the hall was decorated and the floor re-varnished during the summer holidays.

A phone line was installed for Pre School into their store area.

2011

Fund raising this year included Open Gardens Day, raising £1,700, as well as a quiz and a concert by The Men of Morchard.

A very successful annual Spring Clean was held.

Agreement was made to install a P.A. system, which was completed that November.

2012

The hall's Risk Assessment was developed.

Much ongoing debate was had over the now badly chipped gloss paintwork in the hall.

There was yet another incredibly successful annual Spring Clean in March.

The Bonus Ball fundraiser was still running but quite a few balls were now unsold.

Villages in Action, the Devon organisation formed to help communities engage with the arts had two events booked in the hall.

The outside of the hall was painted, including windows, fascia boards, down pipes etc.

2013

A grant of £1,000 was received from South Tawton Parish Council.

The installation of roof solar panels was discussed but it was felt that the roof wasn't presently in a suitable condition.

This year's Spring Clean didn't receive the normal level of support and there were still a number of jobs to be completed. A contract cleaner was appointed to do this in the summer holidays.

The snow in February had leaked into the Pre School store and was monitored to locate the source of the leak.

An art exhibition by South West artist Anita Reynolds was held in conjunction with Villages in Action but managed locally.

The unsightly chipping of the gloss paint continued to be a problem.

2014

There was a leak in the Committee room and repairs were undertaken to this and above the Pre School store. However, later that year water penetration had occurred again and after inspection a replacement flat roof was urgently required.

A Fire Safety Officer from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service inspected the hall and made recommendations including the appointment of a 'competent person' on the Committee to oversee this. All recommendations were undertaken.

Pre School asked for a number of changes to be made in the hall order to improve their pre school provision. A number of the requests were agreed to.

A contract cleaner carried out a 'deep clean' again in the summer.

The hall's plumber reported that the flue may need replacing, the boiler was inefficient and that the hall needs insulating.

A committee member repainted the gloss wooden panelling during the summer holidays.

2015

In January, short term flat roof repairs had to be carried out until the actual roof replacement could be carried out. The Parish Council had



given a grant of £2,000 towards the cost, as well as a grant of £5,000 from West Devon Borough Council. The roof was replaced in the Spring.

External PIR (passive infrared) movement sensor lighting was installed outside the main door.

The Bonus Ball fundraiser ended and other fund raising ideas were discussed. One of these, a '100 club' was developed further but wasn't launched.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman resigned and there was a period without the roles being filled and the Secretary was temporarily covering.

Devon Communities Together were asked to speak to the Committee to advise on gaining support for the hall's management. and their recommendations were taken further. An appeal was launched to include an open meeting in September with the theme being 'use it or lose it.' The Chairman and Vice Chairman posts were filled.

The hall was not breaking even and required fundraising to cover running costs.

South Tawton Primary School took over the governance of Pre School, one of the hall's main users.

Extract from The Chairman's AGM report:

'... With the hall's significant history as a Victory Hall, we must use play towards celebrating its 100th anniversary. Whilst it is still used for many events, it maybe does need to change and adapt, to encourage the new people who come into our community to use the building.'

2016

Sub committees were formed to manage Grant Funding, Fundraising and Building Maintenance.

Pre School's use of the hall increased to the full school day.

Painting of the external side wall and gable end was completed.

Plans for a replacement heating system and roof insulation started to be discussed and grant funding planned.

2017

Efforts were made to find a replacement Chairman and Vice Chairman again.

Plans started for the large amount of fund raising required for the heating upgrade.

The treasurer reported that the 'income generated from renting out the hall [to occasional hirers] is minimal.... *Without the income generated from Open Gardens and Pre School the hall would not be a viable entity.*'

2018

A new lighting system was installed in the Committee room.

Large scale fundraising started in earnest, with a variety of grant options considered and possible match funding money raising events. By May, over £2,000 had been allocated to the heating upgrade project (and insulation/ replacement windows etc.). Quote requests for the work were sent out.

A huge amount of effort was now underway. For example, an incredible £500 of fund raising tea towels has been sold by July. The tea towels depicting houses in the village.

The rebuild value of the hall was checked.

Like every other organisations, the implications of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) had to be considered.



*11th November 2018,
the commemoration of
the end of WW1*



The hall decorated for the tea party to mark the WW1 centenary commemoration on 11th November 2018

The hall was used on 11th November to mark the centenary of the end of WW1. A procession, starting at the hall, walked to St. Andrew's Church in South Tawton. Later on, new posters of the history of the hall were on display and the hall was converted into 'a period appropriate tea-room' with entertainment from the period. On each table was the front cover of the newspaper that would have been read in the village that day, announcing the end of the war. All were invited.

The Chairman's report at the AGM, the day after the WW1 commemoration included:

'Tribute was paid to the village for its remembrance yesterday, and to all those who fought in WW1. ... Fund raising is going well and offered thanks to all those who had worked towards the funds.'
The PC would like to look at replacing the noticeboard at the front of the hall 'as looking a little tired'. 'PC will try and get money to replace with something similar.'

Disabled provision of a hand rail, while line and wheelchair ramp has been discussed at a few recent meetings and is still being looked into.

The inefficient main hall overhead heaters with replaced with more efficient modern alternatives.

2019

In January the 'heating pot' (the name given to the fund for all the current planned work) had reached £5,909.

The sale of the tea towels, as mentioned in 2018, had now topped an incredible £1,000, 'a remarkable achievement.'

The website was updated to a more modern design, going live in February.

A handrail for use in The Committee Room was put in place. Further suggestions were made regarding aiding wheelchairs to get in through the disabled access door at the side of the building. Brought up at every meeting, eventually it was understood that a permanent ramp would not be possible due to the fitting of the door frame when it was built. However, a temporary ramp could be used.

Suggestions of re-starting the annual volunteer Spring Clean of the hall were made.

Quotes for replacing the windows to the side and rear of the hall were considered and the chosen supplier was asked to install them in the summer.

It was agreed to wait to repaint the inside of the hall until the heating system replacement had been completed.

It was understood that South Tawton Primary School would like to move Little Beacons Pre School to the main school premises.

2020

22 slates on the main roof had been replaced or put back before the January meeting.

At the early March meeting, planning was started for the Centenary celebrations in October 2022.

At the same meeting the Committee learnt that the fire escape door to the Committee room had been ripped from its hinges during a night time storm. This was unfortunate as Little Beacons use this as their entrance door for logistical reasons. The door, currently unable to be mended was not currently to be used, apart from in an emergency.

Moving to Zoom for meetings during the Covid pandemic. By the first Zoom meeting in June, Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) had published guidance for the re-opening community buildings. The rules for opening for Pre Schools were understood. All procedures according to the guidance were put in place during the following weeks.

It was agreed to carry out the ceiling insulation whilst the Hall wasn't in use.

Most importantly, a successful grant application was made to the Den



Brook Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund for £20,000. This grant was critical in enabling the planned works to go ahead. Similarly, the £10,000 national Coronavirus Small Business Grant Fund, administered here by West Devon Borough Council and a further grant of £1,000 from South Tawton Parish Council meant the work could go ahead.

2021

Once again the March meeting was held on Zoom due to a further Covid lockdown.

At that meeting the Treasurer explained that the *'total cost of everything we've done so far plus everything we are planning to do is around £32,000. Having already spent some funds on windows and suspended ceiling insulation. The quote for the heating system is circa. £19,000. The estimate for the painting is circa. £6,500 with £314 materials.'*

The heatings replacement was carried out in the summer school holidays, and sadly as there was to be no Dartmoor Folk Festival they hall would be free throughout this time. It was planned that the hall repainting would be carried out in later school holidays between then and the October 2022 centenary.

The Committee Room door was now mended but it was agreed not to use it as anything other than an emergency exit. The door opens outwards and in windy weather if the wind catches it it can damage the hinges.

The stage lighting was upgraded by South Zeal Players.

2022

At May's meeting, it was reported that much of the painting of the hall interior had been completed. There had been a further phase of decorating in the Easter holidays. The kitchen, toilets and stage are still to be completed.

Quotes were to be obtained for new stage and window curtains. Arrangements were made for external painting of the front porch area and the front railings.

At the September meeting final arrangements were made for the hall's Centenary commemoration and celebration on 30th October.



The poster for the hall's centenary celebration



Members of South Zeal Victory Hall Management Committee - 1990 - October 2022

Dates without a given month are November AGM dates, and so represent November through to the following November.

Apologies for all errors and omissions.

Gerald Bastable - South Zeal History Society representative January 1997 - 1998

Jim Batey - Ex officio Jan 2015 - March 2019 Treasurer Jan 2015 - March 2019

Sarah Bazeley - Dartmoor Folk Festival representative - November 2010 - September 2015

Debbie Bennett - Play group representative 1991 - 1993

Jan Berry - WI representative 1990 - 1992

John Berry - Folk Festival representative 1996 - 2004

John Birch - South Zeal Players representative 1999 - 2007

Sheila Bond - The Moorland Group representative 2007 - November 2011. Treasurer November 2008 - November 2011

Caroline Boother - South Tawton Primary School representative 2004 - 2007

Elspeth Brint - Elected 1993 - 1996, Pre School representative 1998 - July 2010. P.C.C. representative July 2010 - November 2016 Joint Chairman 2001 - November 2009. Vice Chairman 2009 - November 2014.

Michael Brint - Co opted to support Chairman role 1994/5, Co-opted, Chairman 1995, Elected, Chairman 1996 - 2000. Joint Chairman 2001 - 2009

Roy Burley - Committee member (type not recorded) 1993 - 1995

Julia Candler - Co opted 1990, elected 1991, co-opted 1992, elected 1993 - 1994

Bill Cann - Parish Council representative 1990 - 2015. Chairman 2009 - January 2015

Christine Cann - Elected, November 2013

Annie Clarke - Elected, Secretary November 2015 - June 2020

June Clements - Elected 1995 - 1999, co opted 2000 - 2002

Michael Clinch - Football Club representative 1990 - 1992

A R Cole - Ex officio, Treasurer 1991 - 1992

Carol Coombs - South Tawton Parochial Church Council representative 2003 - 2006. Elected 2007 - 2008, Co opted 2009-2010

Sharon Cooper - Pre School representative 2011 - not recorded in minutes

Lindy Cornthwaite - Elected 1993 - November 2011

Christine Crawford - Cogs and Wheels representative Sept 2009 - July 2016

Charlie Curtis - Parish Council Representative May 1997 - 2007

Chris Darken - Youth Club representative 1990 - 2003

Fiona Elsworth - Cogs and Wheels representative September 2021 - present

Morris Elsworth - Cogs and Wheels representative Sept 2016 - September 2021

P Fleming - Elected 1990



Jim Goodwin - Parish Council 1991, Elected, Vice Chairman 1992, Ex officio Treasurer 1993 - 1995, elected, Treasurer 1996 - November 2000. Treasurer December 2011 - January 2015. Co opted December 2011 - November 2013. Elected November 2012 - January 2015

Ian Guscott - Parish Council representative May 2015 onwards

Teresa Guscott - Parish Council representative 1990 - May 1999. Vice Chairman 1990 - 1991, 1995 - 1997, 2000 - 2001. After not being re-elected to the PC in May 1999, she was co-opted onto the Committee at the May meeting. Co opted May 1999 - November 2012. Elected November 2012 - present

Elizabeth Hampton - Elected 1993

Bev Hilton - Tinnors Morris representative September 2009 - present

Jill Hobbs - 1994

Arthur Holloway - P.C.C. representative 1990 - 1995

Frances Hucker - South Zeal Methodists representative 1997. November 2017. Elected November 2017 - 2019

Eric Humphreys - South Tawton Parochial Church Council representative Feb 1998 - 2001

Ron Hurst - Co opted 1993 1996, 1998

Jim Langford - SZ Social Club representative 1995 - 1999

Kathy Letheren - Ex officio, Secretary 1991 - 1992, Co opted, Vice Chairman 1993, elected, Vice Chairman at 1994 AGM and voted as Chair in March 1995, elected, Chairman 1995

Joy Lovett - Elected 2009 - January 2011. South Zeal Carnival Committee representative January 2011 - November 2011

Irene Madders - Elected May 2004, Treasurer May 2004 - November 2008

Marion Madders - Thursday Club representative 1998 - 2003

Arthur Madders - Drama Club representative 1991 - 1992

Karena Maltby - South Tawton Primary School representative May 2009 - March 2011.

Wendy Meardon - Co opted, Minute Secretary 1992 - 1993, January 1994 became Fund Raising Secretary

Sarah Miller - Beacon Arts representative 2019

Melanie Mills - Elected 2001 - 2003. Secretary 1999 - 2008

Bill Murray - Folk Festival representative 1991 - 1994, elected 1995

Vicky O'Neill - The Moorland Group representative November 2016 - ending of the Moorland's group use of the hall

Louise Pitts Tucker - Play Group representative 1990

Julian Pillar - South Tawton Parish Council representative 1999 - 2007. 2008 - 2012, Elected 2012 - 2015

Avril Popplestone - Primary School representative 1990 - 1993

Jake Powell - Chairman November 2017 - July 2022

Lyn Powell - Co-opted January 2015 - May 2016

Melinda Powell - Co opted March 2019 - November 2019. Elected November 2019 - present, Treasurer March 2019 - present

Fi Reddaway - Elected 2009 - March 2011. Parish Council representative November 2018 - May 2019. Elected July 2019 - present. Primary School representative March 2011 - 2014. Secretary 2009 - November 2015. Vice Chairman Sept 2022 - present



Wendy Redstone - Recreation Ground representative 1990 - 2007 and Chairman 1993 to Feb 1995.

Winnie Roberts - Dartmoor Thursday Club 1990

Andrew Sampson - PC representative May 2012 onwards

Annabelle Shaddick - Co opted (Booking Clerk) March 2019

Jenny Shaddick - Co opted November 2019. Later Parish Council representative - present

Kenny Shaddick - South Zeal Carnival Committee representative 2003 - November 2010. Co opted 2009 - 2010.

Tracey Smith - Ex officio, caretaker 1993 - 2001, Ex officio, Secretary - 1996 - 1998. Co opted 2001, 2003 - 2009. Elected 2010 - November 2013. South Tawton Primary School representative 2002

Patrick Shaw - elected 1990 - 93 and Chairman 1990 - 1992, Primary school representative 1994 - 1999

Patrick Shea - Co opted 1993 - from January 1994 School representative

Brenda Toombs - South Zeal Players representative May 1997 - 1998

Anthony Trott - Folk Festival representative 1990

Margaret Tucker - Co opted 1991, Parish Council representative 1992 - May 1995)

Paul Warne - Parish Council representative May 2017 onwards

Derek Warnes - Ex officio 1995 - 1998 (cleaner) Co opted 1999, elected 2001 - 2002. Treasurer 2000 - May 2004

Jane Warren - South Zeal Brownies representative 1999 - 2003. 2004. Co opted 2005 - November 2009.

Peter Watson - South Tawton Parochial Church Council representative 2002 - 2004. South Zeal History Society representative 2012 - 2018, as well as PCC representative 2016 - 2018

Jill Watson - South Zeal Brownies representative 1990 - 1998

Andy White - Folk Festival representative September 2015 -. Chairman September 2015 - November 2016

Clifford White - Carnival Committee representative March 1997 - 2002. Dartmoor Folk Festival representative 2005 - 2007

Jane White - Elected September 2015 Parish Council representative. Vice Chairman, September 2015 - November 2016. November 2017 - September 2022. Chairman September 2022 - present

Meg Wolton - Elected 1990 - 1992, ex officio Secretary 1993 - 1995, co opted 1997 - 1999, Vice Chairman 1998. History Society representative April 2001 - November 2012.

Joyce Worthington - Co opted 1990 - 1991, Elected 1992 - 1993, WI representative 1994 - 2003