

**WORPLESDON MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION GROUND
AND THE SIME TRUST**

Registered Charity No. 305151

TRUSTEES' REPORT, 2015

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015.

1. TRUSTEES AND OFFICIALS

Trustees who held office during the year were as follows:

Mr Terence Cater, Chairman	Donor Trustee
Mr Peter Elsing, Hon. Treasurer	Donor Trustee
Mrs Mary Broughton	Donor Trustee
Mrs Jan Messinger	Parish Council Trustee
Mr John McLean OBE	Donor Trustee
Mr Christopher Venables	Parish Council Trustee (appointed 15 Jan 2015)
Mr Roger Welch	Parish Council Trustee

Trust Hon. Treasurer

Mr Peter Elsing
Crest House, Church Lane, Worplesdon, Guildford GU3 3RU

Trust Hon. Secretary

Dr Roger Forder
30 Brittens Close, Guildford GU2 9RJ

2. PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Accountancy Adviser

Ms L S McLachlan MAAT
LMD Accountancy & Taxation
71 Bushy Hill Drive, Mellow, Guildford GU1 2UQ

Independent Examiner

Mr D S Taylor ACIB
16 Martin Road, Stoughton, Guildford GU2 9NX

Solicitors

GBH Law Ltd
Oak House, Shackleford Road, Elstead, Godalming GU8 6LB

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

3. OBJECTIVES AND MANAGEMENT

The objectives of the Trust are:

- (1) to manage and maintain Worplesdon Memorial Hall and its associated Recreation Ground in order to provide recreational, social and sporting facilities for the residents of Worplesdon and surrounding areas;
- (2) to manage and maintain the Sidney Sime Gallery, situated on the first floor of the Memorial Hall, in order to conserve, display and promote interest in the works of art received under Mary Sime's bequest (see Section 4 below).

The management of the hall, gallery and recreation ground is in the hands of seven Trustees: four Donor Trustees and three Trustees nominated by Worplesdon Parish Council. They are assisted by an Honorary Secretary who is not a Trustee. Although Worplesdon Parish Council is the formal owner of the land and hall, it is not in any way responsible for the control or management of the property.

The hall is rented out for a wide variety of functions and meetings, while fees are received from local football, cricket and tennis clubs for their use of the recreation ground. Local and regular users benefit from discounted charges, as do specifically charitable events. The income generated is used to operate, maintain and improve all the facilities on a continuing basis. The Trust employs a resident caretaker who is provided with accommodation in a cottage adjoining the hall.

In respect of the Sidney Sime Gallery, the Trustees have two primary aims: to conserve and, wherever necessary, restore the art works in the collection; and, by increasing visitor numbers and through special events, to raise awareness of Sime's work and to realise the Gallery's potential as a significant cultural and educational resource both locally and more generally. No charges are made for visiting the Gallery.

In exercising their duties the Trustees have at all times full regard for the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

4. HISTORY

The Trust was established by a deed dated 16th October 1919. The Trust Deed included the conveyance of a parcel of land at Perry Hill to Worplesdon Parish Council by Sir James L. Walker CIE, at that time the owner of Worplesdon Place.

Subsequently, in 1922, Worplesdon Memorial Hall was built on the land in memory of the local men killed in World War I. This was funded by an anonymous donor, now known to be Sir Laurence Halsey KBE.

In October 1949 Mrs Mary Sime, the widow of Sidney Herbert Sime, a well-known painter and illustrator who had lived locally for many years, willed to the Trustees a gift of £3,625 and a collection of her late husband's work. In April 1956 the Sidney Sime Gallery was added to the Hall to house his paintings.

5. REVIEW OF THE YEAR

5.1 Governance

The Trust Deed requires one Donor Trustee and one Parish Council Trustee to step down at the end of each calendar year, on a rotational basis determined by seniority. They are eligible

to seek re-appointment. Those standing down on 31st December 2015 were Mrs Mary Broughton (Donor Trustee) and Mr Roger Welch (Parish Council Trustee). Mrs Broughton was re-appointed by the remaining Donor Trustees for a further 4-year term. The Parish Council had originally appointed Mr Welch until 31st December 2016 and it subsequently confirmed his continuation in office until that date.

The Trust Deed also requires that the Chairman should step down at the end of each year, while being eligible for re-election. Mr Cater therefore formally stood down as Chairman on 31st December 2015, but was re-elected for a further year.

5.2 Operations and finance

During 2015 some 130 separate organizations or individual hirers used the Hall or Grounds, indicating that the facilities offered remain an attractive choice for a great variety of activities and events.

The Trustees have decided that, for the year 2015 and thereafter, their accounts should be presented strictly in accordance with the Charity Commission's 'Receipts and Payments' convention.

The overall financial result of 2015 was a deficit of £4,547 compared to a surplus of £4,976 in 2014. In 2014 a considerable number of improvement projects, such as the extension of the car park, installation of a CCTV-based security system and purchase of a new stock of chairs, were financed primarily by grants from Surrey County Council, Guildford Borough Council and Worplesdon Parish Council. However, during 2015, completion and follow-up costs related to these projects were financed solely from within.

The operating result in 2015, excluding expenditures related to the previous year's grant projects, was essentially a break-even one, reflecting operating income and operating expenditures broadly in line with the previous year.

Financial assets (cash and investments) at the end of 2015 stood at £70,210, well above the target of maintaining one year's rental income (about £43,000) as a reserve fund. However, these additional resources will be needed for planned building improvements in 2016 and 2017, which are expected to reduce the reserves temporarily below the target. Rebuilding them to the target level will require careful cost management in the following years.

5.3 Improvement projects

The car park extension project was finally completed in May 2015 and has already shown its value in alleviating the sometimes very difficult parking situation that occurs when events in the hall and on the grounds coincide. Completion of the car park marked the final stage in an extensive programme of improvements that began in 2013. The total cost of this programme has amounted to over £59,000, of which 63% will have been covered by grants from Surrey County Council, Guildford Borough Council and Worplesdon Parish Council; the Trustees would like to record their gratitude for this generous support.

Other major improvement projects completed during the year included:

- a major upgrade to the Hall's emergency lighting system;
- extensive tree cutting and pruning near the tennis courts to increase light levels and to reduce drying time following wet weather;
- redecoration of the committee room and associated staircase.

5.4 Sidney Sime Gallery

The Sidney Sime Gallery continued its high level of activity during 2015.

Restoration of two more oil paintings was commissioned, thanks to support from the Friends of Guildford House Art Gallery. Grants from the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), Worplesdon Parish Council and Surrey Museums Consultative Committee enabled a start to be made on the restoration and conservation of all 35 local caricatures and on the restoration, by West Dean College, of Sime's valuable anatomy drawing book.

A reception was held in May for donors, invited guests and VIP's to see the improvements to the Gallery, view the restored paintings and see the first DVD of *Bogey Beasts*, the Sime-Holbrooke collaboration of music, illustrations and jingles.

A programme of regular open days has now become established and has resulted in a steady number of visitors. Group visits continued; these included an introductory talk in the gallery, tea and a tour of St Mary's Parish Church where Sime is buried.

The annual half-term Family Workshop in February proved another notable success, with participation from 38 children plus parents and support from 20 volunteers. The theme was Sime's local caricatures. Children from Worplesdon Pre-school undertook project work linked with the Gallery.

Planning continues apace for the Sime Exhibition in 2017 at the Lightbox Gallery in Woking, with much appreciated involvement from the Curator of the Lightbox, the Chairman of the Guildford Evening Decorative and Fine Arts Society and Ewbank's Auctioneers, who will be sponsoring the exhibition, as well as the other expert volunteers on the Gallery Sub-Committee.

The Trustees would like to record their thanks to Curator Anne Philps, the members of the Gallery Sub-Committee, and the five volunteers who help with archiving, guiding and serving refreshments.

6. FUTURE PLANS

During 2015 a major programme for extension and improvement of the Hall was formulated. This would involve extension and refitting of the kitchen, a new chair store, improved toilet provision and extension of the Sidney Sime Gallery. This programme will depend on gaining grant support and an application to the Surrey Community Buildings Grant Scheme was submitted during the year. However, substantial financial resources from the Trust itself will also be required.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Signature	Full name	Date of approval
[Original signed in manuscript]	Terence Brian Cater	25th August 2016
[Original signed in manuscript]	Peter Elsing	25th August 2016