

RESPIRE FOR THE PARISH HALL

Michael Stafford, Chairman of the Rowlands Castle Parish Hall Management Committee tells us here how the Hall is faring.

“As previously reported in these pages, with the closure of the nursery school and its source of income, the Hall’s Management Committee was faced with financial problems that could have resulted in closure of the Hall itself, some time this year.

“Our subsequent appeals to Hall users however did not fall on stony ground. With their generous responses, with donations from other well-wishers and with the introduction of the HallSaver Lottery schemes in the last quarter of 2004, our books show a break even position at the end of the financial year to December 31st 2004.

“We are also pleased to be able to say, that after considerable market research, we have been able to place our insurances for 2005 with a reputable insurer on almost identical terms, at substantially less premium cost. Additionally, the Parish council have accepted an increase in charges for the space they occupy in the Hall, and this extra income, the savings achieved from cheaper insurance and the HallSaver Lottery scheme is confidently expected to result in a surplus of funds for the financial year ending December 31st 2005 (further adverse happenings excepted of course.)

“On behalf of the Management Committee, may I extend our sincere thanks for your support of the lottery schemes on which the Hall’s future will depend until such time as other revenue sources are found I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the

RUNNERS AND RIDERS

Harold Hardy, HallSaver Lottery Schemes Manager, lets us know who’s won what so far:

“Here, in no particular order are the names of those who have received a £25.00 cheque from Schemes A and B, between October 3rd 2004 and February 5th, 2005:

Chris Ballard (3)	Ann Haigh	Mary Maskell	Edda Potts
Maurice Nicholls	Freda Stafford	Pearl Davies (2)	
Valerie Gibson	Ann Ostler (2)	Edward Arnold	
Stephen Braden	Nigel Maile (2)	Alan Neate	
Joan Arnold	James Berry (2)	Derek Ashworth	
Maureen Vicary	Marjorie Harvey (2)	Barbara Openshaw	
Harold Hardy	Vera Sweetnam	Ernie Williams	

“The numbers in brackets indicate the amount of cheques received. Does this show that there are such things as ‘lucky numbers’? or is it that some are born under a lucky star?!”

Portsmouth Water's forecasting now means it is option time again; they need to work out the most cost effective ways of matching supply to the projected demand. Out of the 15 options currently being considered, there is one which required Portsmouth Water to remember where they left that model!

I have seen it, and it is really quaint and old-fashioned with its scattering of little wooden sailing boats with tiny sails. It has been brought out to begin the discussion process on exactly what might be possible in storing the winter surplus from the Havant and Bedhampton springs. The two important items on Portsmouth Water's agenda at the moment are to prove the technical feasibility of this old idea to the Environment Agency and the regulator (OFWAT), and also to include us, the wider community. They have formed a Stakeholder Group from various civic bodies (I represent the Parish Council), environmental agencies, and wildlife groups to make sure that concerns and ideas can be fed into the process early so that we end up with a really good recreational and wildlife resource whilst still satisfying the basic function of a reservoir. We still have some time before the likely start of construction in 2015.

The outline for the reservoir relies on the clay base of Havant Thicket to be bulldozed around a bit, making some low embankments to the east, south and west – the natural lie of the land will form the northern shallow edging. A draw off tower near the southern boundary with pipeline(s) headed off to Bedhampton for supply and draw down.

Yes, if this option proceeds, we will lose a plantation of oaks and the avenue of trees leading to the two hundred year old artificial pond, but the environmental and recreational facilities to come should more than match the loss. You have only to look at places like Carsington Water, pictured over, to see what might be possible.

As your Parish's representative, I would welcome your views and ideas to help focus the work of the stakeholder group.

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