

WORPLESDON MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION GROUND
AND THE SIME TRUST

Registered Charity No. 305151

TRUSTEES' REPORT, 2017

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017.

1. TRUSTEES AND OFFICIALS

Trustees who held office during the year were as follows:

Mr Terence Cater, Chairman	Donor Trustee
Dr Roger Forder, Hon. Treasurer	Donor Trustee
Mr Gordon Adam	Parish Council Trustee (appointed 31 Jan 2017)
Mrs Mary Broughton	Donor Trustee
Mr Christopher Ewbank	Donor Trustee (appointed 13 Jun 2017)
Mrs Jan Messinger	Parish Council Trustee
Mr Christopher Venables	Parish Council Trustee
Mr Roger Welch	Donor Trustee (resigned 15 Mar 2017)*

Hon. Secretary

Position vacant

Minutes Secretary

Mrs Marjory Stewart (appointed 15 Mar 2017)

2. PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

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

* Mr Welch had been a Parish Council Trustee until 31 Dec 2016 and was subsequently appointed a Donor Trustee as from 1 Jan 2017.

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 this position was vacant during 2017). Although Worplesdon Parish Council is the formal owner of the land and hall, it is not 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. There is no entry fee for visiting the Gallery, although donations are usually forthcoming especially in respect of group visits, for which an introductory talk is normally part of the programme.

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 that the Chairman should step down at the end of each year, while being eligible for re-election. Having formally stood down as Chairman on 31st December 2016, Mr Cater was re-elected for a further year from 1st January 2017.

Since it had not proved possible to fill the position of Hon. Secretary to the Trustees, Mrs Marjory Stewart was appointed as Minutes Secretary from 15th March. The Trustees are very grateful to Mrs Stewart for taking on this voluntary role.

5.2 Hirings

During 2017 some 113 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. Total income from hall lettings, field charges and users' storage charges was £46,903 compared with £45,781 in 2016.

5.3 Hall Extension and Improvement Programme

During the year, Phase I of the Extension and Improvement Programme described in the 2016 Report was put in hand and largely completed. This involved works to extend and completely refit the kitchen; to provide two external toilets with ambulant disabled facilities; and to put in place a new internal chair store.

Work started at the beginning of the August closure period, and the Hall was open again for most purposes from early September, reopening fully from the end of October. 'Snagging' and other minor works continued intermittently for the rest of the year.

Expenditure on the project during 2017 was £102,067. The ability of the Trustees to carry through this programme was critically dependent on nearly £46,000 of grant support from the relevant local authorities; specifically:

- £40,000 from the Surrey Community Buildings Grant Scheme (jointly funded by Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council);
- £4,632 from the Guildford Community Grant Scheme;
- £825 from Worplesdon Parish Council;
- £500 from Surrey County Councillor Keith Witham's Member's Allocation

The Trustees are extremely grateful for this indispensable support.

The remaining £56,110 was drawn from the Trust's own resources. Final costs that will fall due in 2018 are likely to amount to some £9,000.

The project has been generally hailed as very successful and the new kitchen, in particular, is much appreciated by our users.

5.4 Other improvements

The heavy financial demands of the building work reduced the scope for routine improvements, but it was found possible to install a new track and associated mechanism for opening and closing the stage curtains (which had been very cumbersome processes in recent years) and also new urinals in the gentlemen's toilet.

5.5 Sidney Sime Gallery

The Sidney Sime Gallery had a very active year.

The highlight was a major, six-week exhibition of Sime's work at The Lightbox, Woking, under the title *The Art of Sidney Sime, Artist and Philosopher*. Four years in the planning, this highly successful event exhibited 80 items, all of which had required cleaning, restoration or re-framing. So far as is known, this was the largest ever exhibition devoted exclusively to Sime's artworks. It resulted in a close and continuing collaboration between the Director and Curator of The Lightbox and the Gallery. A booklet to accompany the exhibition was written by our Heritage Trustee and the event was sponsored in full by Ewbank's Auctioneers. The opening reception was attended by 180 guests including guest speaker Thomas Seymour (grandson of Sime's patron), art critics, experts from London galleries, artists and art groups. In total, the exhibition attracted 7000 visitors.

During the exhibition, The Lightbox hosted a children's workshop and two talks, including one by students who had recently qualified from Camberwell College of Art about their restoration of two of the paintings. Subsequently, the Trustees learnt of the selection of one of Sime's paintings for Art UK's exhibition at the London Art Fair to be held in January 2018.

The regular open afternoons saw a steady increase in the number of visitors, especially at Guildford Heritage Weekend when 119 visitors were welcomed, many as a result of the publicity generated by The Lightbox exhibition.

There were two combined group visits to the Gallery and St Mary's Church, Worplesdon, with an introductory talk and tea, with the resultant donations benefitting both organisations financially. These events continue to strengthen links with the local community and provide an opportunity to thank our supporters among local arts-related bodies.

Children from Worplesdon Pre-school again undertook project work linked with the Gallery.

Another postgraduate MA student from Camberwell College of Arts restored several more paper artworks.

The Trustees would particularly like to record thanks to Curator Anne Philps, the members of the Gallery Sub-Committee, and volunteers who helped with archiving, guiding and serving refreshments during a very busy year.

5.6 Financial summary

Since 2015, the Trustees have presented their accounts on a receipts-and-payments basis. This year they have been restructured slightly in that the Sime Gallery and the Extension and Improvement Programme have been designated as restricted funds, thereby allowing for a proper treatment of grants received for those two purposes.

The day-to-day operations of the Trust (i.e. excluding movements in the two restricted funds) returned a surplus of £7,048, compared with £5,451 in 2016. This represented a modest but worthwhile contribution to funding the costs of the building work noted in Section 5.3. The Sime Gallery returned a small surplus of £1,153.

The Trust's position at 31 December 2017 inevitably reflected the exceptional level of capital expenditure during the year. Total financial assets (cash and investments) amounted to £25,430, compared with £71,006 at the end of 2016. This is well below the previously

agreed target of maintaining one year's rental and field charge income (about £47,000) as a reserve fund.

6. FUTURE PLANS

During 2018, the Trustees will be taking action to start rebuilding their reserves to an appropriate level. They also intend to open discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund with a view to obtaining a grant to create a sustainable future for the Sime Gallery and to assist in its extension, for which they have already been granted planning permission. It is hoped to carry through this project as a fitting celebration of the centenary of the Hall's opening in 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Signature	Full name	Date of approval
<i>[Original signed in manuscript]</i>	Terence Brian Cater	18 Sep 2018
<i>[Original signed in manuscript]</i>	Roger Arthur Forder	18 Sep 2018