

Chairman's Report for year ended 31st May 2016

We are pleased to report another strong and positive year, both in financial and event terms.

The use of the **Thomas Pryor Theatre** saw us welcoming back *Scamp Theatre*, who have used our theatre to rehearse their popular production '*The Stick Man*', by *Julia Donaldson*. We have found using the space for rehearsals to be an ideal use of the Thomas Pryor Hall.

We were again one of the host venues for

- Balstock, a popular music weekend in Baldock, with the feedback being excellent.
- Our in-house drama group showcased their production called '***Postcards from Baldock on Sea***' and this was very well supported locally.
- The Choir, Art Group and Creative Writing groups use the venue.
- We provided a venue for the *WWI memorial exhibition* in November 2015
- We hosted a ***Charity Music Gala*** which we held to raise funds for a hospice charity event.
- In February 2016 we supported ***The Fireside Festival*** for their annual mixture of storytelling and delightful entertainment. The Fireside Festival was also able to provide us with some staging blocks which we have agreed to keep in the Thomas Pryor Theatre to use for future events.
- We again supported the ***Baldock Festival*** for a variety of events over the two week festival period.

Our decision last year to turn our coffee shop foyer area into an **Art Gallery** has also been very well supported, both by local artists and by our own volunteers.

This year we have secured more grants and funding, and thanked our **Baldock and District Councillors** for their continued support. Our appeal to our Local and District Councillors resulted in us receiving money to invest in a noise monitor, stage lighting and microphones, and a projector and screen. We have also been given a grant to improve the lighting in The Gallery.

North Herts District Council have also been very accommodating when it has come to spend the monies that have been put to one side to enable essential maintenance works to be completed within the building, as part of our lease and we are awaiting the final item to be completed, which was to replace the disability lift from pavement to ground floor level (Gallery level).

Alison Gentle
Chairman