

## **ST JOHN'S HALL**

St John's Hall had another satisfactory year with demand for the hall's facilities from both the Church and outside organisations remaining reasonably firm. The total income from the letting of the Hall was £18,546, down slightly on 2011, but still considered satisfactory. Demand for the hiring of the Hall at weekends has held up well with supervised children's parties being particularly popular. While the main activities for which the hall is used include Aerobics, Badminton, Dancing and Juggling, it is also used by various U3A activity groups and Hertford Camera Club. We did however lose two of our regulars, one due to the cuts in the local education budget and the second, a tap dance group, due to a fall in numbers.

The expenditure to maintain the Hall this year rose again for a variety of reasons. With the exception of Water where the cost fell due to a leak our side of the meter being repaired, all the utilities costs have risen steadily over the years and last year was no exception. The cleaning costs also appear to have increased substantially, partly due to increased hours and general costs but also partly because some of the Refuse Collection costs have inadvertently been included in the Cleaning figure. However, if the figures for the two sections are combined, there is only a small overall increase on 2011.

In the last twelve months there has been some capital expenditure. Last year there was talk of a security system being installed but this has been put on hold pending the other improvements which are in the process of being done. The roof of the hall has been insulated which we hope will help to keep the gas bills under control but certainly the improvement in the warmth of the hall has been noticeable. Secondly we were hoping to have finished double glazing the windows by now but the local District Council is not being particularly helpful and raised various objections to our original scheme. We await their deliberations on our current suggestions.

During the year the Hall contributed £6,000 to All Saints Church to help meet its own rise in expenditure and, subject to maintaining the current level of income, the Hall Committee hope to contribute a similar sum this year.

TJ