

# **Tollerton War Memorial Institute**

## **Chairman's Statement**

### **AGM, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

It gives me pleasure to report on the past 12 months of the Tollerton War Memorial Institute, which has been one of the most stressful years of note to date, for all of us.

The major event over the past 12 months has been the project to replace the roof. This started with a lot of admin required to gain approval for the grant which facilitated its replacement. FCC Environmental.org awarded us just under £30,000 for this project early in 2022. Work eventually started in October '22, removing the old pan tiles, installing kingspan insulation to the whole roof area, new breathable membrane, before the new tiles were fitted. Unfortunately various problems arose with the contractors having internal changes and poor oversight of this project. With no tiles fitted over the December period, the extreme rain penetrated the membrane, which in turn flooded the hall, rendering it unusable for over a month. The rain damage caused the most noticeable damage to the suspended ceiling, but also the electrics and the floor. There was an overwhelming effort to save the hall by all the committee over this period, with countless containers around, and a lot of mopping carried out.

Just after Christmas, work got going again in Ernst to complete the roof and make the hall water tight; this was completed early January. The contractor was devastated about the effects, which they reassured they would correct. A complete replacement of the internal suspended ceiling was carried out at the end of January, at a cost of £5024, which has helped return the hall to its best, which is better than before we started this project.

As water got into the electrics, a full safety inspection was required. This was also carried out at the end of Jan, giving a full bill of health after replacing 5 lights, which had become full of water under the flat roof section. The total cost of that was £503.

As we stand today, the roof project is complete and the hall is usable and notably warmer, something that will no doubt save us energy going forward. On the down side, as wood takes some time to dry out, we are keeping a close eye on the flooring with consideration to any imperfections being rectified at the contractor's expense. This may require re-sanding and new varnish applied, but will be monitored over the next few months before a decision is made. When all is satisfactory, we will have a far better hall than before we started.

Total cost of the roof replacement came to £31,399.20, of which, £29,715.60 came from the FCC Communities Foundation.org grant, £1683.60 from our own funds. Support from the Parish Council was also required, with them paying £3,194.43 as a third party sponsor to facilitate the grant.

Thanks must be made to the committee members and their partners for their efforts through this testing time, but also to the various clubs and users that have been inconvenienced by this, for your patience.

We have had our usual collection of events which this year included the unveiling of a bespoke War Memorial by local Farrier, Lee Hardy. This is now on display at the front of the hall, which better promotes the War Memorial Institute and the fallen few from the Tollerton area.

At the event in November '22, we hung our very own poppy cascade which had been created over the summer months by local residents. This proved a great communal effort led by Yvonne, containing around 2800 poppies.

Another improvement has been the replacement of the fake grass along the side access path. This had become embedded with weeds and didn't allow great access for people with reduced mobility. This now looks very smart with Indian stone paving.

A new notice board has been made by local cabinet maker, Paul Dowson. This has yet to be installed at the front of the hall, but is another project which helps develop the halls profile and access to the community.

The following year has some new events organised and is settling into a pleasant rhythm that balances events with members busy private lives.

There are a few minor maintenance tasks required, dripping kitchen tap, blocked kitchen drain, rear store door replacement plus the replacement of the guttering and fascias, which will get tackled over the coming months.

As I draw to a close, I would encourage those of you reading this at a later date to consider the hall for whatever function you would like, big party, wedding reception etc, but also supporting our functions as these raise funds to maintain its use. Just buying a ticket is helping to support, but attending is also important for the many benefits, social well-being and mental health, a sense of community and general happiness around the village. The committee work very hard to maintain, repair, organise many aspects, and we are always happy to accept anyone that would like to join in and help.

Thank you to all the committee, Yvonne, Barbara, Janette, Marie and Rachael, plus partners Nick, Murray, Ken and Graham, and also our Bowls rep Ian.

Tim Brook  
Chairman  
Tollerton War Memorial Institute  
3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023