

EAST STOUR VILLAGE HALL

NEWSLETTER - September 2015

Fundraising for the Hall Refurbishment

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our recent amazing fundraisers and their merry helpers:

- Pat and Pauline for kicking off our fundraising with the **Table Top Sale** (£180)
- Sheila, Hayley and Jan for the wonderful **Vintage Tea Party** (£300)
- Julia Gould for the **Village Walk** - in pouring rain but great fun, especially following the narrow zig zag path through the eight feet high maize!!! (**£1,100 - incredible!!**)

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed. The sums raised by these events - £1,580 - are just magnificent!! On top of this, other contributions to the Refurb Fund are from

- TESS £500
- Stours Market £250
- VAP £250
- Jan Cloughton £30
- Chris Williams £10 (donation of payment for a job he did)
- Anonymous £50 (for the second notice board)
- Anonymous £1,000 (for the acoustic panels - WONDERFUL!)
- Bridget Ewen £50 (donation from sales of her greetings cards at Coffee Mornings)

Wow - now we're making real progress. Next we need to plan how and what we can do in the main hall (and stage - yuck). And we still need to improve the heating throughout

Folk Music Concert on Saturday 17 October

The Howden Jones Duo will be playing for us as another fundraising event. PLEASE buy a ticket for yourself and your partner - and get your friends and neighbours to come!! Our hard-working organising committee (Phil Brown, Russell Haddon, Ed Highnam and myself) are hoping for a great show of support from the village to aid hall improvements. The music is easy listening - acoustic folk music, with many self written songs that tell a story. I went to North Barrow village hall in Somerset in April and enjoyed hearing them play - you can sample their music via their website: howdenjones.co.uk. Tickets are available from East Stour Hairport, Udder Farm Shop, and West Stour Garage - or ring Ed Highnam on 838133 for postal details.

Phil and Russell did a great job making the acoustic panels in time for the concert. Sixteen were installed on the ceiling over the weekend of 12 September by Phil, Russell and Guy Gilding.

Refurbishing the Main Hall

We need help to paint the ceiling - wow, it's a big 'un! Mark Davis (MJD Building Services on Back Street) has lent us - at no charge - his "scissor lift" (rising platform) to paint the ceiling. CAN YOU HELP, OR KNOW SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE WHO COULD? I'd appreciate one more person to share the paint roller, plus a couple to move the protective floor covering etc.

Tell Us Your Views

Notes and comments on any aspect of the hall - positive or negative - can be "posted" to me via the blue box on the table in the hallway near the new notice boards. I'll answer these periodically in a summary on the notice board.

Heart Defibrillator

We have a very generous offer to fund one for the village so now we need to do some research - could you help? This is really a VAP (Village Action Plan) project. If you have an opinion on where the defibrillator should be sited, please tell us - either by putting a note into the box near

the noticeboard, onto the village Facebook page, or email me. Standings so far: 1. outside village hall, 2. crossroads, 3. telephone box opposite The Crown.

Hearing Loop

Hannah O'Sullivan, Chair of East Stour Parish Council, sent this message to me (and some of you):

Having had some conversations with Peter Jukes I have realised that those who are deaf have difficulties and can feel isolated and cut off since they cannot participate in functions that the rest of us take for granted. I wonder if, in the midst of the Hall refurbishments, any thought has been given to what I think is called "the loop" system where hearing aids can be connected to some sort of system. Not being deaf myself nor having any other contact with the deaf I do not know what I am thinking of but I understand that Christ Church, East Stour has installed such a system and presumably other venues with community accessibility do too. Perhaps the refurbishment committee could investigate since I feel that those who are deaf can feel ostracized and as a community facility East Stour Village Hall should be able to provide such a facility.

The hall committee is researching this. It's possible that new style hearing aids do not need a loop. Have you any comments?

Hall Resignations

Sadly two resignations have been received. Nick Perrin has decided it's time to retire after several years as a Trustee, and Lewis Fanner is leaving the committee due to other commitments. Many thanks to both for their support. Can you suggest a new Trustee?

Committee Structure?

There is a dilemma of encouraging non committee members to attend, who might offer to give active support, but having too many people that prolongs the quarterly meetings. Arguably, non committee people should only be able to attend the AGM, and meetings should last no more than 90 minutes. But we need active people involved who will who can bring business skills (eg planning, finance, fundraising, searching for grants etc) or practical help (decorating, repairs, researching improvement ideas, how we can get new stage curtains etc). The open invitation earlier in the year for anyone to attend did work, as several new people have offered their help and performed very useful tasks.

On balance, the committee and I now feel only committee members, plus those reporting on specific subjects on behalf of the committee, should attend the quarterly meetings. Thus the AGM in April will again be the only forum for other villagers to attend and offer themselves for election to the committee.

Jumble Sale Anyone?

Several people have suggested fundraising by holding Jumble Sales and Car Boot Sales - can anyone organise these?

Next committee meeting: Tuesday 22 September at 7.30, then Tuesday 5 January 2016.

David Little

Chairman, VH Committee