

Alne Village Hall

VILLAGE HALL RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

UPDATE 1 – February 2013

2013 promises to be an exciting year for Alne Village Hall. The Committee is embarking on a full renovation and refurbishment project. The Village Hall, without losing any of its character, will become a brighter, warmer and more energy efficient place, better suited to a broader range of uses – and users - than before.

So, welcome to the first of what will be a series of updates on this project as work progresses. The Hall is for everyone in and around Alne, so we are keen you are fully aware of what's happening!

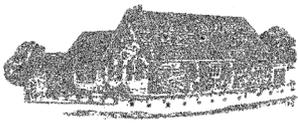
What's the plan?

In the broadest terms, we aim to:

- Make the Village Hall more energy efficient, by lining and insulating the walls, installing a lower ceiling (which will still partly follow the internal shape of the roof), installing a new heating system, and generating electricity from solar panels;
- Fit windows that will open to ensure better ventilation;
- Replace all the lighting and electrics: the Village Hall's wiring is very old, with few sockets and lights – which are obsolete. There will be more and better located sockets, along with better lighting which will allow for options appropriate to different uses;
- Install a new, professionally designed kitchen in the current store room;
- Convert the existing kitchen into a separate meeting room – with its own toilet and external entrance it can then be hired for use without any impact on the main part of the Village Hall, where other activities could be taking place at the same time;
- Make the current playground into an enjoyable, useable space for all;
- Generally redecorate and refurbish all areas of the Village Hall.

Why now?

The need for this work has been growing over time - in many ways the Village Hall is undeniably "tired". However, from 2013 Playgroup will no longer be using the Hall, which means that it must appeal to, and secure bookings from, as broad a range of people as possible to maintain its use and income. And with Playgroup no longer booking out the Hall for much of a week, we have the ideal opportunity to do the work to make the Village Hall perfect for this new era.



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How is it all going to be paid for?

All the Village Hall's fund-raising events over the last couple of years, including regular quizzes and both hugely successful barn dances, have had this project very much in mind. This will, of course, continue.

It goes without saying that any donations would be gratefully received! The Committee would also gladly consider any offers of sponsorship, which could be targeted at specific parts of the work.

The main source for funding, however, will be grants, and we have already started lodging applications with grant-giving bodies. This will doubtless be a long and involved process, but we have already had some success: we have just secured a £1,500 grant from Hambleton DC which will go towards installing two opening windows in the main Hall.

What's the timescale for all of this?

Other than certain small self-contained projects, no major work will commence until the early summer of 2013.

Playgroup will not leave the Hall until mid-April, and two major annual events for the Hall (Gardening Club Plant Sale and Street Fayre) must go ahead unhindered. Furthermore, it will take some time yet to obtain quotes, secure funding, etc.

How will this affect me as a user of the Hall?

Obviously these works will cause some interference with use of the Hall – apologies, but this is unavoidable. The Committee will, of course, endeavour to keep such interference to an absolute minimum. We will also give as much notice as possible so as to allow for meetings and events to be rescheduled.

We would, of course, ask that users of the Hall are willing to be as flexible as possible during this period – the short-term pain should be well worth the long-term gain!

Finally for now, if you want to know a bit more about what's going on, just get in touch with a member of the Renovation Sub-committee: David (830077), Maggie (838474), Gudrun (838236) or Mark (838633). Watch out for future Updates, and keep an eye on the website, www.alnevillage.co.uk, for the latest news.

David Walker
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