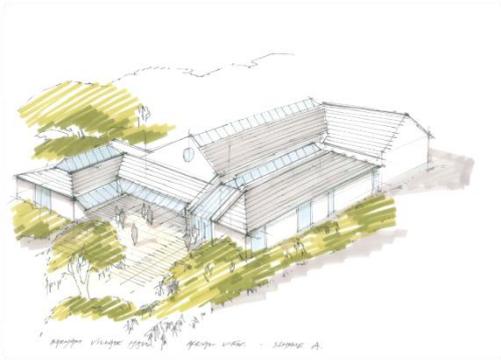


# Barham Village Hall Newsletter

Issue 10

February 2015



Dear Residents,

from **Simon Cavalier – Chairman of the BVH**

It has been 5 ½ years since the Hall committee were asked to provide a permanent home for the Post Office/Shop and at long last, the building work has begun on the Hall redevelopment. It is planned for the work to take 6 months, so all being well, completion should be sometime in July.

The setting up of the site has meant that the access to the Post Office/Shop has had to be restricted with there being no space for either vehicle access or parking just outside the existing unit and we apologise for the inconvenience that this causes. However, it is business as usual for the shop, which remains fully functional, so please continue to support it.

If you haven't already visited the Hall's website ([www.barhamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.barhamvillagehall.co.uk)), it is strongly recommended that you do, as the progress with the building work will be posted there, together with photographs to keep you updated. It also provides information about what the clubs, societies and groups that normally use the Hall are doing and where they have temporarily relocated to.

With the Hall closing for 6 months, our booking Secretary, Sheila Rose, felt it was time to hand over the role to another, after managing the Hall usage for over 13 years. She has all our sincere thanks and admiration for her contribution to the successful running of the Hall. So, the quest is now on to find her successor and a job description will be made available on the Website in due course. Anyone, who would like to know more about what the role involves, please contact me without any obligation.

As part of our agreement with the Big Lottery Fund for them to grant us the funds for our project, we are required to monitor and manage our progress towards achieving our stated aims, which are to increase the range of community activities, services and events etc. and to increase the opportunities for the community to work together for the benefit of the village and its inhabitants. To demonstrate our success in achieving these aims, we will need to gather data through surveys and feedback forms and anyway, it is only good management practice to do so. We know that our lives are already filled with these requests but we really do need to obtain this information, so we ask for your patience in helping us, by completing any data gathering form you are asked to complete.

# B BARHAM VILLAGE STORE

Plans for the Barham Village Store are leaping ahead, with three major breakthroughs in the last couple of weeks. First, it has been officially confirmed that the store will retain its Post Office, which will be overseen by two members of the management board, appointed following an exhaustive application process and presentation at the Post Office headquarters in London. Our present postmistress, Suzy, has agreed to assist in the handover process to ensure a smooth transition.

Secondly, there has been an overwhelming amount of support from volunteers offering to help with the day-to-day running of the store. We now have at least 40 firm commitments and offers from Sally Hawkes and Sue Calderwood to oversee the rota. There will be a gathering of volunteers on February 10th at 3.45 pm at the Black Robin. It will be attended by a highly experienced member of the Plunkett Foundation, a charity specialising in community shops. If you would like to come along, please ring Jan Kincaid on 831782.

The final piece of good news is that following several excellent applications the committee is delighted to announce the appointment of Debra Woodward, a resident of Littlebourne, as our new shop manager.



Building work has now commenced, and, despite the projected completion date being pushed back to July, exciting plans are afoot. The store has now garnered financial backing from four separate sources - the National Lottery Fund, Kent County Council, the Henry Smith Charity and the Esme Fairbairn Foundation. Nick Showan of cabinet makers Jali has offered to supply all timber interior fittings free of charge and Dr Joe Rumble is donating a freezer for the store, with the request that it be used to house ready-made meals for the elderly; a great idea and yet another generous gesture of support. The shop will be trading from the PortaKabin for the first three months, allowing it to hit the ground running when it finally moves into its brand new home.

Continued recruitment and fundraising mean that it's still possible for you to get involved, either by pledging your time as a volunteer or by coming along to an upcoming event. Details for these will soon be available on the store's website, which John Parson's son-in-law, web designer Ilir Hoti, has offered to build.

For more information concerning the shop or for offers of further help, please contact Michael Pearson on 832918 or e-mail [NCS@vfast.co.uk](mailto:NCS@vfast.co.uk).