

BARHAM COMMUNITY HALL NEWSLETTER

Edition 1.

Autumn 2012

Message from Simon Cavalier, Chairman.

Dear Residents of Barham.

At our recent Business Team meeting, it was agreed that there was a need to keep all Barham residents informed on the progress that we are making towards the huge task of transforming our Village Hall into a Community Hall with an integral Post Office and Stores.

I am delighted that this Newsletter, the first of many that will be published on a bi-monthly basis, is able to give you some good news on the progress that the Trustees of the Village Hall, together with co-opted members, have achieved over the last two years. My personal thanks go to my predecessor, Patti Earl, whose energy and drive initiated the team, which I joined just under a year ago and I am delighted that she remains a part of our team of Trustees!

You will be able to hear a complete update at the **Hall's AGM** , at the hall on

Monday 8th October at 7.45pm

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED BY CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL.

Outline planning permission for the proposed scheme was granted on June 27th following some 18 months work by the Trustees in producing a project brief , with contributions being received from many quarters, and the selection and appointment of Godden.Allen.Lawn, Chartered Building Surveyors of Cheriton, to develop the project on to the planning stage.

The plans and visual impressions have been displayed in the Grabham Room and are the basis upon which planning permission has been given. Your comments, ideas and criticisms are welcome, as the plans form only the outline permission, with a long way to go before the final details are decided upon.

To date, we have spent some £16,100 on the project and are grateful for the contributions of £14,000 from Canterbury City Council and £5,000 from Michael Northey's KCC budget. Our own very successful fundraising and income from bookings has given us a future fighting fund of £30,000 which will allow us to take the project to the detailed planning stage.

The great news is that we are over the first major hurdle, one of many in our huge task of transforming our Village Hall into a real community centre. The next phase, which is the most challenging one, is getting the funding – but more of that in the next issue.

BARHAM COMMUNITY HALL HUNDREDS CLUB.

This has now been launched and is part of the long term fundraising necessary for our ability to attract major funds to see the project through. The rules and objectives were agreed at a meeting on August 6th and members signed up at a further meeting on August 20th. Officers were appointed and are: Executive Secretary. Lis Rowe: Treasurer. Jim Barling; Jim Risby and Brian Woodgate.

The first draw is due to be made at the AGM and monthly draws, thereafter, will be made at the first Coffee Stop in the month, held in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings. Details of winners will be available in the Parish Magazine; on village notice boards and in the Post Office/Stores. If you have not already signed up, for as little as £1.00 per month, then please do, as we need as many members as possible. The more we get, the bigger the monthly pay out.

TREE PLANTING AND NEW SEATING AREA.

On Friday 29th June our MP, Julian Brazier, children and staff of Barham Primary School planted a tree in the new seating area created out of the rough grassed and concreted area where formerly the recycling containers stood. The transformation was made by the group of volunteers who turned out on Saturday 23rd June to turn this wilderness into a green and pleasant place to stop and relax in. It has also opened up the entire area giving greater prominence to the Post Office and to the Village Hall, the latter particularly after the painting of the outside earlier this year. Once again we must thank Patti Earl for delivering this project that has significantly raised the profile of the Community facilities of the Village Hall and Post Office.

VILLAGE HALL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES.

One of The Village Hall's primary purposes is to create a venue for Clubs and Societies to meet and hold functions, and, without them the Hall, as such, would be redundant. The Trustees of the Village Hall are represented by most of our users and they are heavily involved in our plans for the future. Whilst the current Hall will change into a more Community based facility, we hope that the greatly enhanced conditions will benefit all and help existing and new users to grow with us in the future. In our subsequent newsletters we will be featuring individual Clubs and Societies to help you get to know them better. A full list of current users and contact numbers is displayed on the Main Hall notice board.

Finally, may we, the Editorial Team, thank our distributors who have hand delivered this Newsletter to your door. We are working on providing a website for the Hall, so that future Newsletters will be featured on it.