



# Dennington Village Hall

Report for Dennington Parish Council AGM, 13/05/19

As you can see, we are now sitting in the refurbished hall, and what a pleasure it is to see it and feel it as it is now. Those of you who came to the opening ceremony in March will remember what a lovely occasion it was, with so much work done by so many to provide such an excellent spread of eats, and of course those who worked so hard behind the Bar. Councillor Stephen Burroughes, our honoured guest, gave an excellent speech and then handed the microphone to Susan Warren, who had opened the hall when she was 11 years old in 1985. She in turn handed the scissors to young Oliver Steward, who, after saying *'I now declare this hall open'*, cut the tape to much clapping and enjoyment from the audience. There were over 200 people there at the launch party, so we feel a large percentage of our community are now aware of what an amazing facility we now have and offer for their use.

Since the last PC AGM, the entire focus has been on raising enough funds to get the building process underway and then convincing the Big Lottery that we were ready to move ahead. In order to achieve this, as we had only raised £258,000.00 in total, we had to cut out the porch from the total figures, as well as the tables and chairs. Once done, they accepted our figures and we were able to proceed. Keir worked closely with Bob Foulkes of Hollins and as a result, the works carried out by Carters has been completed with skill and in line with their projections. Some issues still remain related to the electrical side, including the heaters and the various electrical phases in the building. Keir Wyatt and Allan Dyne are currently trying to resolve these issues along with the help of Carters and Hollins.

We have continued to seek funding and raised an additional £10,000 from the Bernard Sunley Foundation. We have recently been granted another £3700 by Councillor Chris Hudson, an additional £1,500 from Councillor Paul Rous, so an important extra dollop. A further £2000 has been raised from the Suffolk Foundation

towards tables and chairs. We also need to raise additional funding to cover the following;

- **Tables and Chairs** – Currently in the final throws of decision making.
- **Cinema projector, screen and sound system for the main hall**
- **Another (second) mirror for the Ladies toilets.**
- **Curtains for the large windows and blinds for the side doors**
- **A new hatch** and a cupboard for the CCTV equipment
- **A porch for the front entrance**

This additional funding will come to around £20,000 for the smaller bits, and we await a new quote for the porch.

- **The top end of the car park** has already been very kindly improved by Nick Watts, with assistance from Roger Gladwell. Our very grateful thanks to them both. It looks so much better, and in the autumn, we will seed it in order for grass seeds to take root and grow next spring.

We hope to have this all completed by the AGM in September/October of this year.

Binkie Andrews has continued to do an excellent job as Booking Manager, keeping all who call interested and happy.

We have a new cleaner. Dave Owen has taken on the role and worked hard to tidy the Hall up subsequent to the refurb process. He works closely with Binkie to ascertain what needs to be done, and when and alerts us regularly to issues that need sorting.

Jo Denton has once again produced several excellent newsletters over the last year. I might add that our magazine is the envy of those from Fram and other villages who don't have anything in the same league. Thanks go to Jo for all her efforts in putting it together so well. I would also like to recognise and thank those in the village who so kindly deliver the newsletters for us, once they have been printed. Thank you all for your excellent work.

The coffee mornings have gone very well, and continue to do so. Thanks very much to Maggie Archard and her team.

We have two new trustees joining the team – Miles Thomas and Jo Denton who will be officially ratified at our next trustees meeting.

In the last 2 weekends, we have taken £3,400 on the bar over two functions, so this is encouraging news and bodes well in the future.

### **Friday Sports Nights**

Whilst technically the Sports nights are being organised by the Sports Club, they will shortly begin again and we look forward to seeing more of you for a drink with us and to sit out on our new patio and enjoy the fun!

I would like to thank all those in the village who give their time to helping out beyond our regular team, especially Paul Palmer with plumbing issues, Roderick Roy for his secretarial work, and Rickie Robinson who remains excellent with a paintbrush touching up and redoing all that needs to be done. Thank you, all of you.

Finally, a huge thank you to all those who work so regularly and tirelessly for the hall; all the trustees, and of course Keir Wyatt, Allan Dyne and Maggie Archard. We would be nowhere without you, so thank you all for your continued assistance.

**James Maberly**

**Chairman of Trustees**

