

# OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee



## THE PAST

The Village Hall Committee held their AGM on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May and the Committee now comprises:

Amber Austin, Sue Barton, Pete Cashin, Helen Jowett, Audrey Rowley, Laura Valentine-Slack and our new Parish Council Trustee Lindsay Parsons. Warmest thanks to Liz Sidebotham, Pat Priest and Sarah Webb who have all worked very hard on the Committee and stepped down this year. We are still able to co-opt additional Trustees so if you are interested in helping to keep the Village Hall running please get in touch.

Work continues on the planned refurbishment and we hope to have full plans ready for people to see very soon. We are working closely with the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) on our Business Plan and they will also help us to apply for various grants in addition to the main Hinkley Point C Fund. We have also been advised that since a change in the law it would be beneficial for the Committee to alter the existing governance document to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as this will protect the Village Hall Trustees from being personally and financially liable – especially important during the refurbishment when thousands of pounds are at stake. This process will take a few months via the Charity Commission; the essence of the existing governance document will remain the same. As the Hall ‘belongs’ to the residents of Otterhampton Parish we will be sending a letter to every household within the next few weeks to explain what the CIO is and asking for your agreement before we apply formally.

We would still like your assistance if you agree that the refurbished hall should have a accessibility ramp installed. This would obviously make it easier for anyone with a mobility issue and also to parents with young children to access the Hall. The Committee believe that the Hall should be easily accessible to everyone and also think that the ramp is also needed to prevent youngsters running straight onto the road. To date we have only received 4 letters of support so please do take a little time to **write a short letter to the Village Hall in support of installing an accessibility ramp**. This will help enormously with our request to the Somerset County Council Highways Department.

Similarly, it would be very helpful when we apply for grants to have individual letters of support for the refurbishment. So if you visit the hall to attend any of the groups please take a few minutes to send a letter or email saying why the hall is important to you.

Please send your letters or emails of support to Village Hall Committee via me, Sue Barton, 10 Nursery Close, email me at [bartonbs@btinternet.com](mailto:bartonbs@btinternet.com) or drop your letters in the Hall postbox

If you have any queries about the refurbishment please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Village Hall Committee: write to us at the hall, email me on or phone me on 01278 653531.

Date for your diary:

a planning meeting for the 2019 Comwich Fun Day will be held in the Harbour View Bar on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7.30pm. So if you have any ideas for attractions or would like to be involved in running the Fun Day please contact Amber (652111/07980 101968) or Audrey (07876 028061). ***We need all the help we can get to make this a fun event for everyone so please come along!***

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June between 10 and midday at the monthly market we will be showing the final plans for the Village Hall and be available to discuss the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation status.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Comwich Fun Day will be held on the Common on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July** so make sure you keep the date free!

We are planning to organise a monthly Big Breakfast in the Hall starting in September. We propose that this will take place on the last Saturday of the month – a time to get together with friends and neighbours.

We would like to put on more events at the Village Hall to help raise funds for the refurbishment. If you have any ideas, can recommend any stage acts that could perform at the Hall, or have any special requests please contact anyone on the Committee. Whether its bingo, talent show, race night, casino night or an entertainer please let us know.