



Longparish Village Hall
Precious Village Asset since 1910
Registered charity No 301877

Refurbishment Project



Hall Centenary Party



Mega Jumble Sale



Coffee Morning



Longparish Players



Pumpkin Show

From: John Scott, Chairman Village Hall Committee

Owls Lodge, Forton
Longparish, Andover, SP11 6NU
01264 720018, johnhscott01@btinternet.com

September 2011

Village Hall - Personal Donations Appeal

The photos above show that our village hall is well used, enjoyed and valued. However the real picture of the fabric of the building and its facilities is rather grim. The images at the foot of the page show how tired it is and illustrate the need for our refurbishment project which was explained in detail in the leaflet issued with the August Hill and Valley.

In the past 10 months we have successfully raised £200,000 out of the **£270,000** which is approximately what we think is needed for the project. The final figure will come out of a retendering process which is about to take place.

The money has come from community events, grant applications and donations. Our village events to date have raised a remarkable £10,000 to which you may have already contributed and for which we thank you. Our accumulated savings are £25,000 and the Parish Council, having already contributed £11,000, has set aside a further £35,000. Test Valley Borough and Hampshire County Councils have awarded us £31,000 and we have secured grants from two major trusts amounting to £80,000.

Following a tremendous fête result and some very generous donations (including St Nicholas Church Council) the funding gap has considerably lessened but we still have a way to go. So in addition to continuing with fundraising events, **we are also now looking for personal donations** to help close the gap quickly so that we can start work in January.

Before making a donation you may want us to answer some questions which might be in your mind. These are covered on the next page where you will also see some notes on how to make a donation.

Pictures showing the grim state of the hall and some of the work which must be completed:



New front entrance and disabled access



New doors and new lower windows



Flat roof repairs and new insulation



New heating, lighting and insulation



Derelict areas will be restored for use

Questions which may be in your mind:

Why do we need this project considering that 7 years ago there was a big fundraising initiative for the Community Hall at the school for which many people in the village gave generously ?

The Community Hall can only be used for village activities when it is not required by the school. It has no blackout or permanent stage and very limited storage. The 6 years of parallel use of the village hall and community hall have proved that we badly need a refurbished Village Hall as well as the Community Hall for activities including Longparish Community Association groups such as KidzZone, Toddler Group, Recycled Teenagers and The Players, aerobics and exercise classes, lectures and film shows. It also needs to be available for private bookings for children's parties, weddings, family reunions and post funeral refreshments etc.

What is wrong with the village hall ?

- There is no insulation. It is damp and very expensive to heat. This makes the hiring cost to users very high
- There is decay and disrepair in the roof and external fabric
- Access for all especially for wheel chairs is inadequate
- The doors and windows need replacing to increase natural light and because of decay
- The stage and lighting need repair and modernisation
- The kitchen/servery and equipment are inadequate
- The toilets are decrepit and need to be moved
- We must improve the small group activity room/committee room
- The derelict area at the back needs complete renovation so that it can be restored to use. If you would like a tour of this area which is normally closed please ask. Then we can show you how truly awful it is !

The project provides the solution and plan for rectifying all this.

Why will the project cost £270,000 ?

The costings are based on the best of three quotes for a detailed specification prepared by an architect and quantity surveyor. Test Valley and Hampshire Councils together with others who have awarded us grants have scrutinised the figures and plans. They have had sufficient confidence in them to pledge grants totalling £152,250. The breakdown of costs is shown here:

Weatherproofing, roof, insulation and drainage	£	53,800
Replacement of doors and windows	£	20,000
New heating system including solar panels	£	34,000
Creating access for all	£	15,000
Toilets, relocation and modernisation	£	18,000
Lighting and stage	£	14,300
Kitchen/servery	£	5,000
Finishing, painting decorating	£	41,550
Fitting out, professional fees and contingency	£	50,000
Total	£	251,650
VAT (not on all items)	£	20,000
Grand Total	£	271,650

Why not knock the building down and start again ?

Firstly the building belongs to the Diocese of Winchester (rented to the Parish Council for £1 per year) therefore we do not have the authority to allow such a radical step to be made. The Diocese fully supports our plans and expects to continue the current leasing arrangements. Secondly professional advice is that a rebuild would cost very much more than the £270,000 calculated for our project.

Next Steps

As mentioned overleaf we now need to raise the remaining **£70,000** from within the village. There will be more fundraising events, for example a Race Night on Saturday 29th October. However we need to go cap in hand to individuals and ask for personal donations.

It would be wonderful if you could now give a specific one-off donation to this initiative which will transform our valuable hall and enhance our village community life. We will welcome all donations from one pound up to thousands !

It is our aim to have raised the funds needed by the end of November and for work to start in January 2012 with project completion in June 2012 in time for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Thank you so much for your continued support. I am sure that by June next year we will all be proud to have made this project possible.

John Scott, Chairman Village Hall Committee

How to donate :

By Cheque

Please make your cheque out to **Longparish Village Hall** and send it in the stamped addressed envelope provided together with the completed gift aid form if you are a UK taxpayer.

By Cash

Please place cash (notes only – coins can go in the collecting tin on the shop counter) in the envelope provided together with the completed gift aid form if you are a UK taxpayer. You may leave the envelope at the shop or deliver by hand to Jeremy and Maggie Barber. Please do not post it in a letterbox for delivery by the Royal Mail.

Online

If you'd like to donate by credit or debit card please go to

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/longparishvillagehall> There is no need to register; just click on "I'm not registered" when you press the Donate button. Please remember to complete the Gift Aid details when you make your gift. That way our project gets an extra 25% and you may get some tax relief as well.

giftaid it

If you are a UK tax payer and you tell us, we can claim 25% of the value of your gift from the Government. That means every £100 donated is worth £125 to the Village Hall. If you are a 40% higher rate tax-payer, you can claim additional tax relief of £25 on your tax-return. This rises to £37.50 for 50% taxpayers. So please return the gift aid form with your donation or enter the details if you give on line and please consider increasing your gift by the amount of tax you will get back.

Thank you very much

Village Hall Surveys

We surveyed households and village organisations to find out what you think about the Hall. The response rate was very good; in fact three times as high as for a similar survey at Wallop. The results have guided us in putting together the refurbishment plans. The full results are on the village website. The headlines are as follows:

Survey of Individuals

What improvements would you like to see?

- Heating 85%
- Toilet facilities 82%
- Kitchen facilities 78%
- Lighting 64%
- Solar panels 58%
- Seating 51%
- Storage 33%
- Easier Access 30%

If you don't use the hall much what are the main reasons?

- Too cold in winter 36%

Is there enough natural light in the hall?

- No 62%

Suggest ways of improving it

- Enlarge or lower windows 47%

Survey of User Groups

The Longparish Community Association (LCA) response encapsulated the comments of other groups:

'Heating is probably the first priority to increase enjoyment of the hall and prevent the current uncertainty over the cost of hiring the hall in winter, when heating costs can easily double user charges.'

'The hall stage allows us to put on events which will not work in the community hall and lets the Longparish Players thrive. Any improvements there would be great.'

'Storage is a big issue for LCA as we now possess quite a lot of equipment for use by the community – improvements there would be very useful. KidzZone is a priority user group and storage of their equipment is currently a big problem.'

'We need an attractive smaller room for groups to hire without rattling around in the main hall.'

