



BODYMOOR HEATH VICTORY HALL
BODYMOOR HEATH
B76 9JF

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

In our last Newsletter of February 2018 (sorry it has been so long), we informed you that the Committee were applying for some "community funding" from HS2. Originally we had applied for planning permission for a new kitchen extension and a covered patio area. However, after obtaining quotes it was apparent that this was going to be a very expensive job and would have taken all the available funding. The Committee had a re-think as to how to get the best value for our money and how the funding could stretch to afford us an upgraded facility which could be enjoyed by our community. We, therefore, drew up a wish list which would all go towards creating a safe, warm and pleasant environment. The list we arrived at was as follows: new kitchen, extra storage, new floor, insulation, painting, new furniture and a septic tank.

We obtained quotes for all of this work and were delighted that the figure came under the maximum funding of £75,000. HS2 are giving funding up to £75,000 for projects which will benefit communities greatly affected by HS2. As you are all aware Bodymoor Heath will have the impact of 2 HS2 lines on either side of our village which will have a huge affect on our community. We applied for the funding for all of the jobs on our wish list and were delighted to hear that our application was successful.

Work is now well underway and we will inform everyone on completion and you will all be invited to an event to celebrate our "grand opening".

Details of all the work being undertaken is as follows and we hope you agree that we have achieved value for money and this will provide our community with a much improved facility which is available to all.

1. KITCHEN

We are having a new kitchen sited in the entrance hall. This was always a large area of much wasted space, often used for storage which made it a bit of an eyesore with stacked up furniture. Stud walls have been installed creating a large spacious kitchen which will be fitted out with new units, sinks, appliances and a serving hatch.

2. EXTRA STORAGE

The old kitchen has been knocked through into the old store room which has created a more useful space to store furniture and items that we use for various functions.

3. NEW HALL FLOOR

Many of you will be aware that the old wooden floor was giving upon us. It had been repaired many times but the joists underneath were in a very sorry state. We have had all the joists replaced, a new membrane, insulation chipboard and a top surface of plyboard and then finished with a wood plank Karndean finish. This is the flooring used in many public and commercial buildings and is a very hard wearing attractive finish that is easy to clean.

4. INSULATION

We had a central heating system installed in 2017 which was funded by the National Lottery Awards for All. However, due to the construction of the building we were losing all the heat. We realised that for the heating to work efficiently we would require substantial insulation. We have had the whole of the main hall walls, ceiling and floor insulated. This has been boarded, plastered and painted. It will have the appearance of the new room and will be so much warmer with the heating system running more efficiently.

5. NEW FURNITURE

As we have more groups using the hall we have had to move furniture in and out, sometimes several times a week. Our old furniture was heavy to move and awkward to stack. We are in the process of assessing the needs of our various users and meeting with a supplier to assess the most appropriate furniture for us. Whatever we end up getting it will be a smart addition to our improvements.

6. INSTALLATION OF A SEPTIC TANK

Our sewage and drainage has been problematic as it is a very old system and blocks easily. Now that the kitchen and toilets will all be sited at the same end of the building we are installing a septic tank which will be connected up to the current system. Although this will entail the tank to be emptied on a regular basis, it should cause less problems and be a much simpler system to maintain.

Our local Councillor, Andy Jenns, was able to award us with a grant of £300 which will enable us to purchase new crockery.

The Committee hope that you are as enthusiastic as we are about the improvements. This will give our community a village hall to be proud of and a facility that we can take pleasure in using for many years to come thanks to the funding from HS2.

HS2 UPDATE

Phase 1 of HS2 is getting started! You may have seen the men and vans doing the preliminary works by way of surveys and ground clearance. The work around Jct 4 of the M6 is being done in conjunction with HS2 to improve the road junction and roads have been closed in Water Orton. Closer to home, Surveys are being done in the fields of Middleton House Farm and the work on the diversion of the Kingsbury Road should start this year.

The consultation on Phase 2b which goes along side the M42 has closed. Many thanks to those that responded. We probably will not hear anything until late spring and won't know for sure what HS2 intend until the final Environmental Statement is lodged at Parliament, probably in the summer of 2020. Jean Thomas and Jane Cerone continue to attend meetings with HS2 locally to put our case forward and try to obtain the best information we can.

KINGSBURY PARISH AT WAR

A recent project was funded by the National Lottery. This marked the centenary of the First world War and enabled people in Kingsbury, Piccadilly, Hurley, Wood End and Bodymoor Heath to preserve the memories and heritage of the people who lived through this time. This project was headed by Jean Thomas, a Parish Councillor and Deputy Chair of the Victory Hall Committee. Five community themed "war" paintings were created by Bob Turner who lives in Bodymoor Heath. We were presented with a painting depicting Bodymoor Heath during the war and this shows the names of 3 soldiers from Bodymoor Heath who died in service. This will be given pride of place in our newly refurbished hall. We are also being gifted a commemorative bench which will be housed outside the Victory Hall. Further details can be found on the Kingsbury Parish at War website.

AGM

Monday 15th April 7.30pm

Please come along and air your views as to how you would like to see the hall run and also let us have your ideas on what events you would like to see held at the hall. The Victory Hall belongs to everyone in the village and the Committee need your support and input. If you would like to come onto the Committee please e-mail us at: victoryhall1952@gmail.com for further details.

REGULAR EVENTS

Whist

Whist drives are held every Friday night and every other Saturday night from 7.30pm. Come along if you are interested in playing.

Pilates

Classes are held Wednesday 10.30-11.30am and 6.30 - 7.30pm. £8 walk-in and £42 in advance for 6 classes. We are lucky to have an excellent and very experienced lady, Audrajean, to take these classes. The classes are aimed at all levels. Come along for a gentle yet challenging workout which has many health benefits. We have some mats that you can use. You should wear comfortable clothing to allow free movement and the class can be done in trainers, socks or barefoot. All abilities welcome. Please see the sign outside the hall for further details. She also has a website www.pilatesmindfulmovement.co.uk.

Afternoon tea

Join us on the first Wednesday of every month 2.30-4.30(ish) for tea/coffee and lovely home made cakes. It is just an informal get together and a good chance to catch up with villagers, friends and family and have a good chat over tea and cakes. All welcome. Please come along. There is no charge but donations are welcome and we sometimes have a raffle.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

No dates are available at the moment as we need to get all the work finished. We are proposing to organise the following over the rest of the year:

The Great Bodymoor Bake Off

Cake tasting washed down with copious amounts of tea and coffee - what's not to like!!!! Always a great event not to be missed. You could be the next Bodymoor Star Baker.

Quiz

A great night with a good mix of questions to suit everyone. Fish and chip supper, prizes and raffle.

Skittles

Gets very competitive but good fun. Fish and chip supper, prizes and raffle.

Summer Fete

A family day with a nod to bygone days of good old fashioned family fun. Stalls, games, raffle, refreshments and many more attractions.

More events to be arranged so please ensure we have your e-mail addresses so that you can be added to our mailing list and get up to date information on what is happening at the Victory Hall. Please contact us via our e-mail address: victoryhall1952@gmail.com

PRIVATE HIRE

The Hall can be hired for private events (daytime or evening). Reasonable prices and cheaper rates for residents. Forms and details are available from one of the Officers listed below or you can contact us via our e-mail address which is: victoryhall1952@gmail.com

Committee Officers Contact Details

Sally Mansell - Chairman 0753 5617504

Jane Cerone - Secretary 07968 824505

Lynne Johnson - Treasurer 01827 873489

The Committee work hard to try and make the hall a nicer place for everyone to use and all profits are ploughed back into improvements to the hall. We do rely on the help and support of our residents and users so if you can help us out in any way we would be extremely grateful.