

join in the fun

The Newton Regis Village Hall project aims to put the fun back into fundraising with a wide and varied schedule of events set to take place over the next couple of years.

The idea is to organise events which provide a real opportunity for villagers to get together on a social basis because this is something which Newton Regis has been missing in recent years. We are therefore planning a diverse range of day, evening and weekend events designed to bring people together, build up community spirit and hopefully, raise funds for the new hall into the bargain.

Fundraising

When the fundraising is complete and the new hall is built, we hope that the principle of social events will continue, with the hall as the new focus of a community which is benefiting from its own efforts.

Committee Secretary Phil

Richardson said, "Everyone on the committee recognises that fundraising events have to be fun, so we're open to suggestions or input from anyone as to major events which we can organise. Of course, we will also be delighted if anyone wants to run a smaller fundraising event of their own. Our first two events are a Christmas Party and a Valentine's Party, and we very much hope that everyone will support us to make these really enjoyable."

◆ *Thanks to those people who have already offered to help with event organisation. Further details of our fundraising targets will be made available at the village meeting on November 26th, 2002.*

members
of the
committee
are:

David Hedgecock	Tel: 830932
Chris Gomm	Tel: 830766
Sue Barker	Tel: 830297
Lyn Kesterton	Tel: 830274
Phil Richardson	Tel: 830178
Chris Wakeman	Tel: 830259
Robert Bryan	Tel: 830177

events calendar

Xmas Party

The very first Christmas Party in aid of the new village hall project will be held on Saturday December 14th 2002 at the existing village hall. The ticket price is £5 per head, which includes a cold buffet and disco. Tickets available from committee members. (Helpers for food, bar or hall decorations would be much appreciated. Call Chris Wakeman on 830259.)



Valentine's Party

Break out the red roses and brush up your lurve lines, we've got the best in Valentine's bashes lined up for Saturday February 8th at the Metro Hotel just outside No Man's Heath. The night includes a buffet, disco and late bar, and costs £20 per person. Smart dress is the order of the day. (If demand is high enough, transport will be arranged.) Tickets available from committee members.

NEWTON REGIS

new village hall

NEWS Winter 2002

village meeting

Tuesday November 26th
at 7.30 p.m in the old
Village Hall.

new hall shapes up

Stars in their eyes!

Elvis is just one of the big stars rumoured to be making a special appearance in Newton Regis next year as a one-off Stars In Their Eyes competition kicks off at the Queen's Head on Tuesday February 11th.

Please support this event which has been kindly organised by Pub Manager Yvonne North, in aid of Newton Regis Village Hall funds.



Great new drawings of the proposed layout for Newton Regis village hall will be unveiled at a special village meeting on November 26th - and everyone is invited to come and take a look!

Along with an opportunity to view the plans, there will also be a chance to hear details of a whole range of exciting new community projects which look set to be based at the new hall, information on the funding process, and details of the proposed construction timescale.

Launch

The meeting is being seen as the official launch of the project, which has been the subject of considerable behind-the-scenes activity throughout the summer months, and which will

form the focus of a major fundraising drive over the next couple of years.

Meeting

Newton Regis Village Hall Committee Chairman David Hedgecock encouraged as many people as possible to make the meeting, which starts at 7.30pm in the existing village hall. "We have worked really hard to get the project to this stage, and we're really hoping that people will come along and find out just how far reaching the plans are," he said.

What's Inside

What our survey of local people revealed
Call to village youngsters

◆ **69% of all respondents thought that building a new village hall to replace the existing one was essential or very important.** Another 24% thought it was quite important. In fact only 7% deemed it not very important or not important at all. When asked to judge the value of a village hall as a local amenity, 74% classed it as essential or very valuable.

◆ **72% believe that a new village hall would improve the experience of living in or around Newton Regis.** This is interesting with 82% of our respondents residents of Newton Regis itself, and other respondents living in Seckington and No Man's Heath.

◆ **89% of returned questionnaires confirmed it was important to offer facilities for disadvantaged groups such as older people and their carers, and**

disabled people. Of the total number of parish residents detailed in our questionnaires, 15% were aged 65 or over, 3% were disabled, and 3% were carers. The 41 to 64 aged bracket contained most of the respondents at 44%, with a further 22% falling into the 17-40 bracket.

◆ **73% of people want to see more social events organised centrally for the benefit of the village as a whole.** Of the total number of respondents, 79% said they would be interested in going to the hall for a village event such as a fete or Fun Day; 72% were interested in entertainment such as a village show, disco or pantomime; 68% said they might use it for a party or reception and 50% pointed to sporting events. (See our back page story for plans to set up fundraising events and an ongoing programme of social events.)

here's what the survey said...

A fantastic response to the village hall survey has shown us the way ahead and helped us to prepare funding bids. A big thank you to everyone who responded.

The response to our survey was excellent, giving details and views relevant to 268 people in the parish. The overall tenor of the replies was very supportive, and has spurred the committee on in terms of getting the project up and running.

Interesting

Some of the most interesting facts centred on the age breakdown of local people, with the youngsters who were mentioned making up around 16% of the total, and the number of older residents accounting for another

15%. These two groups are seen by the committee as being among the most disadvantaged in the village, and so it is important that their interests and needs are catered for.

Attributes

When asked to place the most important attributes of a hall in order, the top answer was good design, followed by warm, large and well fitted. Using the hall as a venue for village events was seen as the most popular function of the new building, followed by its use as a base for local groups, as

a place for older people to meet and as somewhere for young people to go.

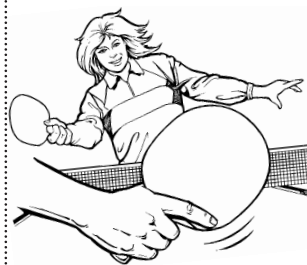
Projects

Local people put forward a range of interesting and useful ideas regarding other hall functions, many of which we have tried to incorporate into a series of local community projects which will be explained further at the forthcoming village meeting on November 26th, 2002.

◆ *Thanks to Ken Scott who provided questionnaire printing and analysis services.*

call to village youngsters

Young people in the village are being asked to contribute their views to a special report looking at how the new village hall might support youth groups and activities.



Our village survey showed that 16% of all parish residents mentioned by respondents were in the 5-16 years old age bracket, yet at the moment, Newton Regis offers very little for young people. We are therefore investigating the possibilities and want to hear from young people or adults who have ideas or suggestions on how to set up youth activities at the hall.

If you would like to be involved, here's how you can do it:

- ◆ email your views to: robin.powell@ukgateway.net
- ◆ contact any member of the committee (details overleaf)

benefits for the whole community

At the heart of the village hall project is a plan to set up essential community projects based in the new building. These proposals cover a wide range of local issues, from a need to improve access to social activities, to a plan which will increase police presence in the village.

Committee Treasurer Sue Barker commented, "We believe that villagers are looking for more than simply a building, and we hope that by providing the kick start for a range of community initiatives, we will be able to play our part in helping the village to rebuild some of the sense of community which has been lost as amenities have disappeared from the area.

Projects

"For example, we are very aware that the area does not really offer any support or facilities for many of the residents,

particularly those who are elderly or unable to travel very far. So in putting together the village hall proposals, we have investigated a wide range of local projects, including one to improve the availability of healthcare facilities.

Input

"We will be putting forward all these ideas in more detail at the village meeting and would welcome any input from local people before we finalise the way forward."

◆ *Special thanks go to Barbara Taylor and Robin Powell for their valued input in researching community projects.*

send us a letter of support

We are shortly to apply for grants from major funding bodies and in order to support our applications, would value greatly any letters of support which individual villagers may wish to send to us. Please write to: Lyn Kesterton, Funding Officer, Newton Regis Village Hall Committee, Institute House, Main Road, Newton Regis, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 0NE.

Show your support. Find out more at the Village Meeting on November 26th.