



East Woodhay Village Hall

March 2024 Newsletter

Dear Village Hall User,

We are most grateful for your support and hope that we can continue to promote both the hall and your club/society/class at the same time.

We thought it would be helpful to give you a bit of an update on developments as follows:

1. Finances - The Hall continues to consume more funds than it raises. This situation is exacerbated by the society-wide increase in all costs (eg fuel, light and insurance and the reduced availability of funds from local authorities). The Management Committee is working hard on extra marketing and other initiatives (eg 100 Club) to turn this around; please help us by promoting this venue to all your contacts for business meetings and all kinds of social events. We'll keep you informed of developments.
2. The Back Room – you may have noticed this has been given a redecoration and our thanks are due to a team of willing volunteers who have worked really hard to help on this, using paint kindly donated by one of our team.
3. The Future of the Back Room – we are hopeful we have let this on a more permanent basis to a longer term 'hirer'. This would clearly help us in many ways; we will advise you in due course of the details of the hirer if it goes ahead.
4. Blinds - you will have noticed we have installed new blinds in the main hall. These are supposed to be 'black out' blinds, but what has been delivered is not what we ordered! Please bear with us whilst we sort out this delivery issue. They are operated up and down with a chain pulley system on the right hand side of each blind. We're sure you will agree, they are a huge improvement to the look of the place.
5. 100 Club - In January we started a 100 Club to raise further funds for the hall and to engage our users and local residents with the running of the hall. We have written to all users of the Hall and asked you to publicise this initiative. Unfortunately take-up has, so far, been very low, which may mean we are unable to continue with this venture. We are in close contact with our existing supporters of this venture and will keep everyone updated.

6. We are working hard to obtain some more grants to assist with further work at the hall eg. we are aware that the outside lighting is not as good as it could be; we are also looking to undertake some patchwork to the tarmac at the front, where there are some 'potholes' starting to appear.
7. Pictures – in an effort to spruce up the hall further, you will see we have hung some framed photographs. These are the first of what we hope will be a series of art exhibitions from local artists. We are delighted to start off this 'exhibition' with amazing photographs kindly supplied by local artist, Simon Ball, whom some of you may well know.
The pictures that we have taken down? Some of them will be given to the history society for safe keeping; some of them may be reframed and hung elsewhere in the hall - we are thinking possibly of a 'history wall' but that will depend on what we have. Reframing may take a little time, so please bear with us - if you know of someone who can assist with framing please put them in touch with us.
8. Free Wedding Reception Venue - we are looking to promote the hall as a venue for wedding receptions, as well as other parties and gatherings of all types. To launch this venture, we are offering our first couple the opportunity to hold their wedding reception at the hall, free of charge. They will of course be responsible for all catering and associated costs and we would like to take photographs of the event / of the hall suitably decorated in return. Please help us spread the word on this exciting development - put them in contact with us.
9. The Community Open Day – Saturday 23rd March – 2-5pm. We hope that you will all be taking the opportunity to join us at our Community Day – a chance to promote your particular club or society. If you are unable to make the day then we will happily promote your 'flyer' to our visitors, if you send it to us.

We hope the Community Open Day will raise the profile of the hall and all the clubs and societies who use it. Please come along, invite your friends and family, and support in any way you can. There will be tea/coffee and cakes, as well as an Easter Egg hunt, and entertainment for the younger ones kindly supplied by our lovely Scout Group colleagues.

With thanks,

East Woodhay Village Hall Management Team

All contact to: enquiries@eastwoodhayvillagehall.org