NAUNTON VILLAGE HALL RESTORATION

REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017-18

The past 12 months have been some of the most momentous in the hall’s 80-year history.

Following a Parish-wide survey to determine how the hall can best benefit the Parish and surrounding communities and a number of meetings with local residents the decision was taken to upgrade the hall.

The immediate improvements to include: an environmentally-friendly heating system, full insulation throughout the building, an extended and revamped kitchen, building a meeting room and complete redecoration of both the interior and exterior.

A number of fund raising events over the years had already established a reasonable working fund and this was further added to by grants from Garfield Weston, the Summerfield Trust, Notgrove Trust and Cotswold District Council. Although these inputted to the budget the most significant financial contributions to the rebuild fund came from the residents of Naunton itself: the first in the form of personal monetary contributions plus gift aid and, secondly, by the precept. The latter was voted through by parishioners and enabled the Parish Council to apply for the funding. The Village Hall Trustees would like to put on record its appreciation of the support this project has received from the Parish Council; without the precept it would have been challenging to realise the village hall improvement programme.

Building work commenced at the end of 2017 but, due to the severe winter, didn’t finish on schedule. The site was cleared, eventually, on 18th May. However, there is still some cosmetic work to be completed. It was decided from the offset that, to minimise costs, certain jobs would be undertaken by local volunteers, including: refitting the kitchen, decorating the lobby and re-equipping the toilets, stripping out the old bar and renovating Huntsman’s bar in the lounge as well as tidying up the hall grounds.

This work is now underway and the renewed hall is expected to re-open at the end of July for a village celebration; a separate marketing event will be held to promote the hall to local schools and other parties who might be interested in making use of the new facility.

As chair of the Village Hall Trust I would like to put on record my appreciation of the support that has been received from the Parish Council, Naunton residents, the Trustees and, especially, Vanessa Gatford, Keith Russell and Neil Vincent who were the backbone of the working group who helped deliver the refurbished hall which will serve community for future generations.

Ian Adcock

Chair Naunton Village Hall Trust