

CONTACT DETAILS

Comments, ideas, concerns—feel free to contact any Director of the company

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New Secretary needed

The Directors would like to put on record their most sincere thanks to Graham Kendall, who has done sterling work as Secretary since 2009 but has now resigned as both Secretary and Director, though he will continue as a member.

We now need (fairly urgently!) a new Secretary to deal with our routine Agendas and Minutes and correspondence, organise our AGM, and make our annual return to Companies House. If you would be interested in volunteering (and Graham will be around to help you initially) please contact Mark Exelby or Eric Clark (details above).

Volunteers invited

It's not too soon to volunteer to help to run the Village Hall! Full training will be given, and we are looking for people who will help to: manage the education programme for volunteers; take bookings and ensure that the Hall is set up for each session; manage and serve in the café, and make cakes, biscuits etc for sale. We shall also need maintenance and caretaker volunteers. We want to hit the ground running as soon as the building is ready! If you are interested in volunteering, or just want to find out more, please contact Julie Stead-Connor (details above).



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2012

We're almost there!

We are delighted to announce that we have got through to the third, and final, stage of our application to the Lottery Big Opportunity Fund. Our plans have been approved in principle and it is now very likely (though not absolutely certain yet) that we shall be granted funds.

This Lottery grant, plus the money from the Methodist Church and our own fund raising, would enable us to convert the old Chapel into a Village Hall which will be up and running next year.

The upper floor of the two-storey Hall will be open-plan, providing maximum space and flexibility for a wide range of activities such as meetings, drama, dancing, keep-fit, yoga, and of course social events and parties. The ground floor will be fronted by a café, open to the outside in good weather, with an adjacent kitchen providing on-site catering facilities. There will be smaller meeting rooms which will also be available for others uses, e.g. by a visiting chiropodist, nurse or other service providers.

The terms of the grant require that everything should be of the best quality and meet the highest ecological and sustainability standards, while keeping running costs to a minimum, which is exactly what we want for ourselves.

But we still have a lot of work to do. June is the deadline for our final submission, which is about the business case and demonstrating that we can meet the Fund's very exacting standards. With help from a mentor from the Fund we are preparing a detailed business plan and cash flow forecasts for the first two years. We should know the outcome by September.

One aspect of our earlier submissions which impressed the Big Lottery Fund was the commitment and involvement of so many local people in deciding what we want, and giving their time and expertise to help to achieve it. I should like to thank everyone who has helped us get so far and is now helping us in the final stages.

Julie Stead-Connor

Building Work

It's now all busy on the building front, because we also have a June deadline to get all sorts of things in place and clarified to satisfy the Lottery Fund requirements. We also have a mentor from the Fund to help us, and the Fund will release a Development Grant to cover some of our expenses.

The local building 'team' comprises Mark Exelby, Alison High and myself, and our co-opted member Andrew Long (who has some useful and relevant experience, and who couldn't really escape the meetings anyway, as he is my husband).

One of our main objectives is to be in a position to be able to start work very promptly if and when our application is successful.

We are continuing to work with John Witherick, the Laverton architect who prepared the plans for our Stage Two application, charging only a nominal fee. The plans are on the Village Hall section of the Grewelthorpe village website at www.grewelthorpe.org.uk, and they are also on display at The Crown. I would be happy to run through them if anyone has any questions. The plans have been sent to Harrogate Borough Council as a pre-application submission, and we should hear from them soon.

John Witherick will be invited to tender for the ongoing architectural work, as will two other local architects, not yet decided at the time of writing this.

Our priorities include commissioning a number of professional surveys on the Chapel, including structural and asbestos, to ensure that there are no hidden problems which could delay the building work. We shall also need to appoint other professionals, including mechanical and electrical engineers, a project manager and CDM coordinator.

Fortunately, given everything else we have to do, we don't have to have our builders in place by June. But once the architect has been appointed and the surveys completed, we shall be able to invite local builders to tender for the work. The choice of builders will be our own.

Legalities

The Building team is also responsible for tying up the outstanding legal details by June.

We had already agreed a 40-year lease with the Methodist Church, at a peppercorn rent. But we have now had to go back to them to ask for the lease to be made "assignable" so that it could, if necessary, be transferred to any successor body to the current Board. This is a sensible requirement of the Lottery Fund, to ensure that the new Village Hall will continue for the long term.

We are also in negotiations with Harrogate Borough Council to acquire the freehold to a strip of land which will provide access to the Hall's new side door, which will be the main entrance with stairs and lifts to the first floor.

Fiona Long

Fund Raising

Bedouin Feast

On Saturday 3 March, starting 7.30pm, there will be a Bedouin Feast at the Kasbah (more commonly known locally as the Mechanics Institute at Kirkby Malzeard). Tickets are £20 (or £160 for a table of eight) and include a three-course meal and half a bottle of wine each (beer, soft drinks and more wine available from the bar). Starlit tented room, belly dancers, live entertainment and disco. Prizes for the best fancy dress (men and women). Numbers strictly limited and tickets must be booked in advance from Julie Stead-Connor, tel. 658814, or Alison Kerr, tel. 658265.

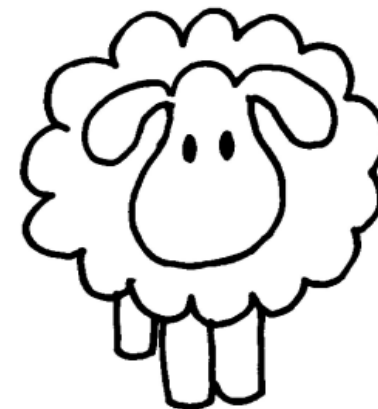
Ceilidh

A welcome return for our very successful Ceilidh, which was a sell-out last year. Saturday 24 March is the date, Masham Town Hall is the venue, and start time is 8pm. Music by the Village Hop Band, with Caller Tessa Goldsmith. Lots of fun and dancing for the whole family! You would be well-advised to book your tickets in advance from Carol Johnson, tel. 658990, or Alison Kerr, tel. 658265. Tickets are £8.50 for adults, £3.50 for under-twelves, and include a 'Tattie Topper' supper. Licensed bar.

Grewelthorpe Sheep Trail

Following the success of our Sheep Trail last year (which was featured on local TV) we are planning an even bigger and better Sheep Trail this year, culminating on 4 June (the Queen's

Diamond Jubilee weekend) when the best-decorated sheep will be judged. Those of you who bought wooden



sheep for decoration last year will be able to re-enter them this year (re-decorated if you wish) for a fee of £5. New sheep for this year's trail will cost £10. And we shall have a new category for this year, Grewelthorpe Lambs (smaller sheep) for the under-twelves at a cost of £5 each. There will be excellent prizes. Further details will be announced later.

Recent Events

Our Autumn events and efforts (the York Gospel Choir concert, the Coffee Morning hosted by Carol and Mike Johnson, the new Christmas cards and the Christmas Raffle) raised a total of £1,650 for our funds. The winners of the main Christmas Raffle prizes were: Pam Grimsditch (Christmas Hamper), Ann Kendall (Breakfast Hamper), and Pauline Holloway (Escape Beauty Salon Voucher). As always, many thanks to all who organised and supported these events.

Alison Kerr