

HOPES FOR PRISTON VILLAGE HALL 2021 AND BEYOND

2020 is drawing to a close and what a year it's been. Whilst writing this I have come to realise just how many events and activities we have missed out on, as a result of not being able to make use of our Village Hall, that treasured asset which sits at the heart of our community, both physically and metaphorically. They are as follows (and apologies for anything left out!)

Pilates, Tai-Chi, Circuits, Yoga classes, x 2, Book Club,
Parish Council Meetings, Hall Meetings, Church Meetings, Election Centre
CPR training, Dog Training, Foot Clinic
Saturday Cafe, Harvest Supper, Auction of Promises, 12th Night Evening,
Travel Talks and Presentations, Concerts, Choir practice, Newcomer Welcome Events,
Quiz, Pantomime, Christmas Grotto/cafe, Wassail, Social Evening, May Day, Festival, Cricket
Club Dinner etc etc etc,

As well as numerous private birthday parties, anniversaries, christenings, wedding and funerals.

For the benefit of newcomers and to remind long standing residents, the hall underwent an extensive refurbishment project, worth around £80,000 throughout the best part of 2019. This included complete replacement of the old leaking roof, new guttering, external and internal refurbishment of the toilets/kitchen and a decorative facelift. With the finishing touch of photo competition to choose typical Priston scenes to decorate the newly painted walls. The end result being a considerably improved, leak free, warm and welcoming space, perfect for all the activities mentioned above. Sadly, we were only able to use the hall for a few months in early 2020 before "lockdown" took hold.

The fund raising and management for this project, as well as the ongoing day to day running of the hall was and still is, undertaken by various members of The Village Hall Committee. However, several of these volunteers, after years of sterling service, to keep this valuable asset well managed and well financed, have recently retired or are imminently, retiring from the committee. Anyone who uses the hall owes them a huge debt of gratitude.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR HALL

In order to manage the hall to the best of their ability going forward, the current committee would really value the views of "villagers" particularly with regard to future fund raising.

To put you in the picture, the hall costs approximately £3000 per year to run. In the past this sum has been chiefted mainly by "Priston May Day", a fundraising event which requires considerable organization, with ever increasing bureaucracy, and involving input from a large number of people. The Committee would be very interested to discover whether villagers would rather give their time to help organise fund raising village hall events such as May Day, OR as an alternative make monthly or annual donations with any hall events focused purely on sociability and fun, to be organised by the various village clubs and interest groups.....the committee would like to know and need to know villagers' opinions.

In addition, there is now space on the committee, (including the role of Chairman) for new blood, new talent, new expertise, new inspiration to continue the very necessary work of managing and financing the hall into 2021 and beyond.

THE VILLAGE HALL AGM IS ON 3RD FEBRUARY AT 7.00pm (possibly via Zoom) at which all existing committee members stand down after one year's service and are then re-elected if they so wish. Anyone over the age of 18 living in the village is entitled to attend the AGM, be elected onto the committee and vote for other members, so it is NOT a closed shop nor is it a lifetime's commitment. So don't be shy, please volunteer.

REMEMBER WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS THE HALL SIMPLY CANNOT FUNCTION

If would like to find out more about joining the committee or have any views and ideas regarding fund raising, please chat to the current committee members who are (contd next page)

(contd from previous page)

Gail Pattison (Chair), Jo Taylor (Joint Secretary) Jim Dickinson (Joint Secretary), Peter Brookes (Treasurer), Lissa Carter, Fiona Hassard, Sue Copperman, Claire Lawton, John Cameron, Richard Bottle, George Haines, Robert Hartley

Maggie Rideout (Bookings Manager)

At the moment the following are standing down in February: Gail Pattison, John Cameron and Jo Taylor

or if easier email/phone any of the following

Fiona Hassard: fionahassard@yahoo.com	07776 280253
Peter Brookes: peterybrookes@gmail.com	470589 / 07843 274264
Gail Pattison: gail@pristonpattisons.force9.co.uk	01761 470609

Fiona Hassard on behalf of The Village Hall Committee