



VILLAGE HALL SPECIAL EDITION

The future of Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley Memorial Hall (better known as Hurst Green Village Hall) has been the subject of much speculation for more than twelve months. Now a joint working party of the Village Hall and the Parish Council have come up with a series of recommendations. This edition of your local community newsletter covers what is proposed for the Village Hall and ways in which we can all help.

This edition of Round The Green is kindly sponsored by Stephen Clarke of Hurst Green Plastics. If you would like to sponsor future editions of Round The Green, please contact the editors: Nancy Bailey (01254 826903) or Agnes Bland (01254 826559).

What Will Happen Now?

Have you heard what they are going to do to the Village Hall? During the past year you may have heard all sorts of things, from knocking it down and flogging it off, all the way through to Stonyhurst College taking over the land and building houses on the Bayley Field. Many of these rumours had no basis in fact, yet were understandably concerning to many residents.

As reported in the previous edition of Round The Green, the Memorial Hall committee and the Parish Council felt that, 50 years on from the opening of the Village Hall, it was time to take stock of the needs of the community and look at all options before rushing into major fund-raising and expenditure on necessary repairs and renovations. As a result, a small working party was set up with three members from each of the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council. It has been considering several different options. One of these was a radical proposal to build a smaller, brand-new hall on a new site. But that was not the only plan considered. The group have also looked at rebuilding on site, and, most particularly, remodelling and revamping the existing hall to make it a warm and welcoming venue for community and social events of all kinds.

The working party has come up with a series of recommendations, all of which have been accepted by both the Memorial Hall Committee and the Parish Council. These are the main recommendations:

- Retain the hall - the village hall will NOT be knocked down.
- Make necessary repairs.
- Remodel the hall, with a new and good heating system, proper insulation, and a new roof.
- Set up a Project Team to raise funds, apply for grants, and manage the major works to the hall.
- Most important, give the hall a bright new future.

On page 2 the working party reports on its findings and recommendations in detail.

HOW CAN I HELP? Go on safari (see back page), book the Hall (see back for details), join the Friends of the Memorial Hall (contact Agnes Bland on 826559), or volunteer your particular skills to the Project Team: contact Niall Macfarlane on 01254 826152 (shireburn.house@zen.co.uk) or Peter Butterfield on 01254 826308.

Round the Green ... and Round the Fell

This edition of Round the Green is also being delivered to homes in Chaigley. Round the Green has been produced since 2003 and is delivered to 300 houses in the Hurst Green, Stonyhurst and Kemple End areas.

Hurst Green Village Hall is a facility available for all the parish to use. It was erected as a War Memorial Hall for the whole parish to honour those who gave their lives during the Second World War, which is why this edition is going round the fell to Chaigley as well as round the green.

Round the Green is produced two or three times a year. It contains local news, usually has an article on local history, as well as news from local organisations, such as the W.I. and the churches. It carries no advertising and is an entirely voluntary effort.

You can find previous editions of Round the Green as well as Parish Council news and contacts for both the Memorial Hall and St John's Old School Hall on the joint village and parish website:
www.hurst-green.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL - REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

The Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley War Memorial Hall was built by volunteers on land gifted to the Parish Council by the Society of Jesus. It was opened in 1965, and is now over 50 years old and in need of renovation or renewal. Towards the end of 2016, the Memorial Hall Management Committee (V Hall Committee) considered suggestions from its chair to build a new hall, either on the existing site or a new site, the intention being to secure a practical, energy-efficient and adaptable building which could attract a larger number of users and be more suited to the current needs of the community. A public meeting before the V Hall AGM in April aired the views of residents, and there was significant concern expressed at that meeting about the proposals.

The Hall is owned and managed by the V Hall Committee, however the land is owned by the Parish Council. For some years the Parish Council has paid the insurance, and in the event of the V Hall Committee being unable to carry out its function, as happened in 1992, responsibility for the Hall falls to the Parish Council, who own the land in trust for the social and recreational needs of the parish.

Prior to the public meeting, both the V Hall Committee and the Parish Council agreed that a Liaison Group should be set up to consider these and other proposals for the future of the Village Hall. The Liaison Group consisted of three people from the V Hall Committee - Niall Macfarlane, Kath Molyneux and Peter Hayhurst - and three members of the Parish Council - Des Harwood, Chris Berry and David Bland.

Remit

The Liaison Group was tasked with making recommendations on the future of the Village Hall to both the V Hall Committee and the Parish Council.

What We Did

The Liaison Group met 7 times. It first considered the needs of the community and how any new or renovated Village Hall could meet those needs. It had meetings with the Bursar at Stonyhurst College to discuss any possible new-build sites, and received advice on a number of matters relating to Community Land Trusts, housing associations, funding, and planning. A number of individuals were consulted, including estate agents and land surveyors for advice on the value of the V Hall site, Ribble Valley Homes on the feasibility of social housing on the site, should new-build be considered, and a local retired heating engineer. The Liaison Group also researched the likely new-build costs of a number of similar Halls, both locally and as far afield as Cumbria and Somerset.

The Liaison Group was pleased to receive a free visual structural survey of the existing Hall by a local chartered surveyor. The Group also received free advice from a local builder, especially regarding the state of the roof. The Liaison Group commissioned a further structural survey by Philip Wright of James Crosbie Associates Ltd of Bolton. This was the only expenditure resulting from the work of the Liaison Group. The V Hall Committee has kindly agreed to pay for this expenditure.

Recommendations

1. The existing Memorial Hall building should be retained with renovation, renewal and remodelling to make it more adaptable and increase its use by the local and wider community.
2. Repairs and remedial work should be carried out as identified by the structural surveys.
3. Remodelling and larger project work, including a new heating system and a new roof, should be managed by a Village Hall Project Team. The Project Team should be small in number, should have members from the V Hall Committee, the Parish Council and volunteers with particular skills. The Project Team should also be responsible for major fund-raising and grant applications over and above the normal fund-raising and income streams of the V Hall Committee. The Project Team would also be tasked with project management of major building works.
4. The Project Team should be led by an independent volunteer with skills in project management. It is not another committee or talking shop but a group of individuals each tasked with a particular job. The V Hall Committee will continue to manage the Hall and raise funds for repairs and running costs. The Project Team will undertake larger fund-raising and grant applications for capital expenditure.
5. There should be close liaison and transparency between the V Hall Committee, the Project Team and the Parish Council, as well as consultation with users, local groups and residents from the whole parish.
6. Suggested that the Project Team should engage an architect to produce creative proposals for future remodelling and development of the Hall. Priorities would be adaptable spaces, improved access and increased use of the hall.
7. Within the project as a whole, priorities for the Project Team will be the design, funding and installation of a new heating system and effective insulation, and replacement of the roof.
9. Suggested that once the Project Team have plans, timescales and funding targets, that they should launch the 'Village Hall Project' at a public meeting and social gathering in the Hall to give the project a real lift-off.

The full report is available to read on the parish website: www.hurst-green.co.uk

Sadly, we have recently lost two stalwarts of the local community:

John Holden

John Holden died on 1st October this year. He was born at Hacking Boat on 28th July 1933. Having attended St. Joseph's School and Preston Catholic College, John trained as a mechanic and served for two years in the RAF. He spent his working life at home on Winkley Hall Farm. In 1956 John married Joan Embley of Hurst Green, and they went on to have 5 children, Margaret, John, David, Elizabeth and Peter. Sadly, Joan died suddenly in 1985.

In 1989 John married Eileen Mather and moved to Warren Fold, but he continued to work on the farm with his three sons. John was widowed a second time when Eileen died very suddenly only four years after they were married. John played an active part in village life. He helped to build the Memorial Hall, served on its management committee for many years and, together with his family, were very involved in the running of the village fete.

John was a man of great faith and he contributed in countless ways to St Peter's Parish. He served as a governor of St. Joseph's School and worked tirelessly for many years for Stonyhurst's Lourdes Pilgrimage.

In 2000 John married Rita Downey. Rita worked alongside John on several projects, such as the painting of the nativity scene which is placed by the village Christmas tree each year. This, together with the cemetery crucifix and statue of St Joseph near the school are testimonies of John's faith and his great contribution to the life of his village and his church. He will be greatly missed.

Cynthia Yates

Mary Bailey writes: Great sadness was felt in the village in September, following the death of Cynthia Yates of Deerhouse Farm, Stonyhurst.

Cynthia was born and brought up in Brinscall, near Chorley, where she attended the local Primary School, going on to Chorley Grammar School and then to Teacher Training College in Bingley. She met her husband, Roland, at the local Youth Club when in their early teens, and they married in 1962, after which they made their home at Lower Dutton, on Gallows Lane, before moving to Deerhouse Farm in 1970.

Cynthia loved her teaching and worked in several Lancashire schools - perhaps the time she enjoyed most being that at St John's Primary School, here in Hurst Green. She was a very talented lady and leaves behind many examples of her work, notable ones being the kneelers and repaired altar cloths in St John's Church, for which she did so much, and the production for the millennium of the wonderful record of local life, 'Chronicle 2000'.

Cynthia was always very supportive of Roland in his farming, regularly having a 'poorly' lamb by the Aga, or going off to collect spare parts, or medication from the vet's.

Cynthia will be remembered very fondly by so many people and condolences are expressed to Roland and her daughter, Ruth, and son, David.

Notes on the History of the Memorial Hall

Among John Holden's many interests was local history. John wrote these notes on the history of the Village Hall:

V.E. Day in Hurst Green was celebrated with a children's party in the Band Room at the Shireburn Arms organised by Mary Brown and Maggie Holden. Following this, it was decided to start to raise funds, not for a second war memorial but for a Memorial Hall for the parish. Along with Gilbert Melling, they approached Fr Vavasour of the Stonyhurst community for land on which to build the Hall. As the farm land at the Bayley Arms had come free from tenancy, a plot at the front of the Bayley Field was earmarked.

A Deed of Gift for the land to the Parish Council was drawn up in 1950, but it would be several years before sufficient funds were available to build the Hall. In the meantime, a Committee was formed, which held weekly bingo sessions and fortnightly dances as well as other events to raise the money needed. In the early 1960s, plans for the Hall were drawn up, and in 1963 work started on the building.

Dennis Lakeland was chairman of the Committee, and he became clerk of works for the building. He brought his digger to dig out the foundations and drainage channels. An outside firm erected a precast concrete shell, and Tom Wilson was hired to do the foundations and build the stonework. Otherwise, all the work was done by voluntary labour. Tom Bailey was clerk of works for the joinery. A soft-wood floor was laid diagonally to be covered later with a high quality dance-floor of maple wood when funds were available. A dedicated team of volunteers under Tom Bailey's guidance, including Clifford Haworth, David Kay and myself, laid the floor, nailing down the last boards at 10 o'clock the night before the Fete in 1964. There was a dance held on the night of the Fete when 420 people attended. Mind, at the time, there were no doors, windows or furniture. These were the days when ladies wore stiletto heels, so after each dance we had to fill any knots in the wood that had fallen through.

Dick Whalley and Hubert Wells laid all the drainage pipes. The electrical work was done by Alan Duckett and John Marsden, and the plumbing by Gilbert Melling and Ken Bolton. That winter, Tom Bailey and Tom Fazackerly fitted all the doors and finished work on the stage. When funds allowed, we purchased a large amount of second-hand maple flooring, and it was the same team under Tom Bailey who put it down. In May 1965 a full week of celebrations were held to mark the official opening of the Memorial Hall.

GO ON SAFARI!

Have a great night out,
enjoy a 3-course meal,
meet old and new friends,
and raise funds for your local Village Hall.

SAFARI SUPPER

Friday 16th March, 2018

Put the date in your diary!

£12.50 per person

(£10 if hosting)

To book, phone 01254 826559

or 07792469895

or email: agnes.bland@btinternet.com

or just text the word

'safari' to 07792469895

If you have never been to a Safari Supper before, they are great fun. You start with canapés and some bubbly (or non-alc) at Hurst Green Village Hall. You are given an envelope with details of your itinerary. At 7.30, everyone sets off to their first house for main course. Then, around 9.00 it is off to another house and a different group of people for pudding. Everyone meets back at St Peter's Club in the centre of Hurst Green from 10.00 for coffee and mints. The Safari covers everywhere from Dutton round to Chaigley. Lifts can be arranged, and please just let Agnes know if you prefer a vegetarian menu or have special dietary requirements.

If you would like to host a main course or a pudding, that would be a great help. Just let Agnes know or text 'Host' to 07792469895.

The Safari Supper is a fun social event, and a great way to get to know more people from all across the parish.

It is also an enjoyable way to help the Village Hall: all funds raised will go towards the upkeep and repair of this important community facility.



Little Green Bus, based in Clitheroe, provides Community Transport in the Ribble Valley. It arranges door-to-door transport for many elderly, disabled or vulnerable residents.

It also has a volunteer car scheme to help elderly passengers get to medical appointments.

If you or a neighbour or relative need help to get about, why not give the friendly staff at Little Green Bus a ring on 01200 444484.

Parish Council News

Thanks to Chris Holden and Margaret Carrington and her team of volunteers for all the work on the War Memorial, the tubs and Bilsberry community garden. This year the Parish Council also gave a grant of £200 towards planting the troughs and verges at Walker Fold.

Christine Holden represents Chaigley ward and chairs the Parish Council. Contact: christine.holden2964@gmail.com or contact the vice-chair, Peter Butterfield on 01254 826308 or any councillor - see website: www.hurst-green.co.uk

**Wedding? Children's Party?
Meeting? Workshop?
Fund-raising Event?
Social? Do?**

**Why not book the
Memorial Hall?**

**Contact Kath Molyneux on
01254 826898 or
07973521774**

Or email:

kath@streamsystems.co.uk