

The Parish Hall Improvement Project

Report to the Parish Meeting Thursday April 25th 2019.

Once again we have had a successful year with more events raising money for the Parish Hall Improvement Project and progressing with the lease.

Fund raising has included a Walking Treasure hunt and afternoon tea on a very hot summer's day which proved to be very popular, and also a very generous donation from The Village Players' Summer show "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." We have also had 2 successful Film Nights, showing "Mamma Mia" and "Mamma Mia, here we go again." We have had donations from individuals and the W.I, our many thanks to all. We have had another Tythe Barn Quiz, our thanks to Will and Emma Deeley for hosting this, and we had 120 people come to this event so another very successful quiz! £595 was raised and we also launched another 50:50 draw at the quiz. This will be drawn at our Walking Treasure Hunt on June 30th.

Huge thanks must go to all who help organise these events and especially to the committee who turn up at each meeting and come up with ideas and make them a reality.

We have made progress with the lease of the Parish Hall and by May 2018 a draft lease was being considered by the Parish Council, and the Parochial Church Council. Several amendments have been requested and this is still on-going. Last autumn we had an EPC done on the Parish hall. The hall was rated a "G" grade which is the lowest grade and since last April it is illegal to lease a property which is lower than and "E" grade. It would be a waste of money to do work on the hall to bring it up to an "E" grade only to have all ripped out when the renovations begin. So we have written to our MP and contacted the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy but the reply has not been very helpful, for example, telling us to look at the exemptions which we have already done. Our Solicitor and Property Consultant have advised us that the way forward is to put in place "an agreement to lease" and this is the way we are going.

The priority now is to finalise the wording of the lease as we need this in place in order to "agree to lease."

A working group has been set up to represent the four main groups involved, the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council, the Hall Management Committee and PHIP. This group have been visiting other halls, designing plans for the hall, talking with hall users and researching funding sources as well as reporting back to the 4 groups for their ideas and thoughts.

We look forward to the next year and hope it will be a positive year for our well-loved Parish hall.

Thank you

Martin Evans