

## News and Views February 2023.

“I have news My Lord” Some of you may remember this phrase from the first series of Blackadder.

(First aired 40 years ago in 1983.)

Well, we do have some news. I did mention that if the weather turned very cold for a prolonged period, we would look to open a warm room in the Hall. When the snow and ice came a few weeks ago we asked, via TCF and others who had contacts with the more elderly in the village as to whether they would want to use such a facility. The answer was that they were perfectly happy tucked up in their flats and houses and had no intention of venturing out in such dangerous conditions. – Very sensible.

The old club room and bar. The Trust originally looked to just replace the suspended ceiling, lighting, surface mounted wiring and address the poor insulation. However, we now believe that this is the right time to restore this part of the building to its original design. The project will open up the original vaulted ceiling, restore the pendentive-domed (I did not know what it was either!) entrance lobby, restore cornices and several arched openings, the stone fireplace and two blanked off stone mullioned windows. We aim to replace many of the modern doors and frames with new doors to match the original style. The old bar with temporary shelving and other facilities is outdated and will be refitted for our present and future needs.

We will be able to insulate it to modern standards and install modern, low-cost LED lighting.

We have applied to the Jubilee Fund for a grant towards this work and are in consultation with our preferred local builders to get updated quotes for the work.

That is the exciting stuff! Now for the more mundane. We are continuing repairs to various leaking roofs and are about to install new guttering and down pipes together with replacing the rotting barge boards along the south side of the Lounge. There are always maintenance jobs to do in a 123 year old building.

My thanks to the many who have already donated towards fund raising for improvements and to others who have made pledges. This is the first part of our plans to bring the whole building into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and make it even more attractive and usable for present and future generations.

Peter Reeves

Chairman, Beatrice Drewe Trust.