

News and Views April 2023 Beatrice Drewe Trust.

“What we’re going to do right here, is go back, way back, back into time” This intro may be familiar to you Radio 2 Rockers who listen into Johnnie Walker’s Sounds of the 70s on Sundays. Nearly as good as Tony Blackburn’s Sounds of the 60s on Saturday mornings – very early.

Why am I harking back? We are going to go back, back in time! The Trust have decided to revamp the old club room and restore some of the wonderful features from the original design by Sir Aston Webb in 1899. Not everything was good at the end of the 19th century i.e. The Anglo Boer War was still raging in South Africa, high child mortality, the Work House, TB and more but the people of Ticehurst were very fortunate to have a Village Hall (The Institute) designed by one of the country’s most eminent architects.

Over the years various additions have been made and changes to suit the users of the time. We have been very fortunate to have been helped by Ted Curley who has recently moved into the village. He has kindly used his many years’ experience as a leading Interior designer to sketch out some designs which will not only open up the old clubroom but will bring it into the 21st century with modern insulation and energy saving lighting. The suspended ceiling is going and we will open up the wonderful vaulted ceiling and window. The fireplace and chimney will become a major feature and the doors into the Lounge replaced with better bifold and importantly the 2 doors in the corner opened up to make the most of the stone archways, one to the lounge and the other into the poolroom.

The bar will be transformed into a more user friendly and cosier area more in tune with needs today. We aim to remove the shelving along the back and reveal the original windows.

So, when is this all going to happen? We are in the process of getting Listed Building Consent having had 2 asbestos surveys done to make sure there are no nasties lurking. We are applying for a Platinum Jubilee Grant and the Trust have awarded the work to Neil and his team at NOAHS.

Have we got all the money for this project? Firstly, many thanks to those who have donated so far. The answer is no but I am confident that we will raise the remain funds needed for this Phase 1. Then onto Phase 2 and 3 and.....

There will be some disruption during the building work but we will do our best to keep it to the minimum.

If you missed seeing the sketches of the new bar and clubroom at the Parish Assembly, here are some of them.

Peter Reeves

Chairman, Beatrice Drewe Trust.