

Ticehurst News and Views. December 2022

We had a basic structural survey earlier in the year, a 3 D survey recently but nothing tests a building as much as 8 inches of rain in November with driving rain from the South West!

Another asbestos survey has been carried out so we can progress with our planned refurbishment of the old club bar and area, hopefully in the first months of 2023. Yes, I know I have been mentioning this for several months but like the old British Rail slogan "We are getting there". Similarly, permission to knock down the old, often vandalised and totally substandard outside toilets should be granted shortly.

We have welcomed some new users to the Institute recently to join the long list of regular clubs and societies including Table Tennis, Salsa, Zumba, Tai Chi, Baby Ballerina, Yoga, Youth Group, Library, Art Group and the Crochet team amongst others.

New to the Hall is the FREE Children Under 3's (plus a parent of course) on Tuesdays 1000 - 1100. A great opportunity for Mums (and Dads) to get together and meet other parents, exchange ideas and have a good chat. Yes, you did read it correctly, it is free thanks to sponsorship by East Sussex County Council. Working from the East Wing, when not required by another booking will be our famous local artist, Bill Talbot. His fame has spread far and wide, you may have seen some of his work in the Bell, but I know that some of his paintings hang on a wall in Cape Town.

As well as small groups the facilities are available to hire for weddings, family parties, corporate groups and fund-raising social events. We were pleased that Bewl Bridge Rowing Club booked nearly all the rooms for a very successful evening earlier in the year. In case you are wondering, 85% of Bewl Water is in the parish and as Michael Caine might say "Not a lot of people know that"!

Christmas is the season of goodwill and I believe there is an enormous amount of support and goodwill in the village for the Hall. I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people for all their hard work over the past few months. John Brooker, our caretaker, without whom we could not function. Bookings taken, tables and chairs all laid out and then put away again, kitchen and floors all cleaned and polished to within an inch.

Like all older buildings we have the occasional heating, water leak crisis and we can rely on Vernon Hallett to be there in short time to remedy the situation. Talking of water being where it should not be, Steve Moon has done a wonderful job on sorting out some of the roof and guttering problems we had due to the excessive rain recently. More to be done in the next couple of months.

If you are out dog walking early in the morning you may come across Bernard Allen around the Hall and recreation ground. He is always happy to lend a hand clearing undergrowth, moving unwanted materials just left around and is happy to make a trip or two to the Heathfield tip on our behalf.

You may well have noticed the wonderful hanging baskets we have every year. These are paid for by the Trust but carefully tendered and watered by Mark and Gill from Beatrice Cottage.

Finally, my thanks to Sheila Jemmett, our treasurer and secretary who keeps me in order and to the committee members for all their support and valuable input.

Date for the diary. Wednesday December 7th. Ticehurst Chamber drinks and networking at the Village Hall. 6.00 – 7.30pm. The bar will be open (see it before the revamp) and an opportunity to look around all the facilities we have for hire. As mentioned in last month's edition, we are increasing our room rates by £2/hour from January 1st – but, I am sure you will agree, still amazing value!

