News and Views Beatrice Drewe Trust December 2023 edition

Some may have watched recent launch of Elon Musk's Space X with its massive Starship rocket, rising high above the Gulf of Mexico until the booster rocket exploded and they then lost contact with the main rocket. Rather an expensive day.

Closer to earth the something equally exciting will be happening at the rear of the Village Hall. Demolition, but a planned one.

By the time you read this Neil and his team from NOAHS will have made a start on removing the condemned and unsightly outside toilets plus the old storeroom. This is all part of improving the building and exposing some of its original features.

The Trust is very much looking forward to the New Year when we will be starting on the major refurbishment of the old club room. It has been a long time coming with lots of "hurdles to jump through". A comprehensive survey including 2 asbestos ones, drawing up the plans (many thanks to Ted Curley), discussions with the planning and conservation officers at Rother and deciding on our building contractor. Again, it is Neil and the NOAHS team. Work will start in the first full working week of January, and we anticipate it will take 6 weeks. We have picked this time of year as there are less bookings but don't worry if you are a regular user, we will still have the main Hall, kitchen and toilets in use. Please liaise with John Brooker.

Like many, we need to dejunk. There are a lot of old tables, chairs of various types, curtains and other bric-a- brac that which are cluttering up the space behind the stage. Please chat to John if you would like to have a look and ideally make us an offer.

What else? We are planning on installing new blinds in the Loungeand buying more stackable chairs and tables for our users.

By the time of the next edition in February, we hope to have a good percentage of the Phase 1 work completed. Exciting times but, unlike some others, we will be keeping out feet firmly on the ground.

Peter Reeves

Chairman Beatrice Drewe Trust.