Beatrice Drewe Trust - News and Views November 2024

Hooray, and crack open the bottle of Chapel Down's finest English Rose fizz! We have finally finished the Aston Webb Room with the big mirror on the chimney breast and Bill Talbot's magnificent painting of local flora and fauna taking pride of place on the wall.

Our first big event was the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal talk on October 10th with a near full house in the Hall. We had the bar open and Kit Smith supplied a superb pre-booked curry which was consumed in the Lounge. We were delighted by the number of positive comments from both existing users as well as those from first time visitors. It proved that the Village Institute is an ideal location for parties, fund raising events (more of this below), weddings, wakes, club and society meetings.

In order to accommodate everyone eating the then attending the talk we have bought another 48 chairs. What else have we done? More mundane and probably not noticeable to the majority of people, but very important to a few, we have spent a lot of money on repairing the roof in 3 different places. The Beatrice Cottage extension now has a new flat roof, the East Wing (Bill Talbot's wonderful studio) has had major work done and we have repaired the gully above the entrance. It has cost a considerable amount but had to be done – and just in the nick of time considering the appalling weather we have been having. It has been good test of the workmanship!

Fund Raising Events. Again, many thanks to all our users and those who have made donations to Phase 1 refurbishment. Further funding gratefully accepted! We now have a building that we can be proud of and ideal for all sorts of family and community functions.

Ticehurst Talks. We are planning a series of interesting talks on a wide range of subjects on the 2nd Thursday of the month starting in December. This will be with Eric Froggatt, originally from Wadhurst, who was in the winning crew in the most recent Clipper Round the World Race - 45,000 nautical miles in 11 months. Other future speakers include Lord Moore (Charles Moore) who had edited the Daily Telegraph and Spectator, Simon Lloyd on the History of Ticehurst and Pam and Patrick Watts who completed the most recent Peking-Paris Rally in their 1965 Sunbeam Tiger.

Cinema Nights. Other villages have them so we will as well. Mind you, I bet they don't have a screen as large as ours! Popular films and a great way of the community coming together for an evening's entertainment with a glass or 2 of whatever you fancy. We will be running a bar on those evenings – another way of raising money for the Trust. Quiz nights are also in the pipeline.

The website is in the process of being updated so please keep and eye on this www.ticehurstvillagehall.co.uk as well as the Facebook and Instagram pages.

Peter Reeves, Chairman Beatrice Drewe Trust