

Village Hall News

SNIPPETS

- Newsletter No. 10 was printed and sent to the distributors **before** the petition surfaced, so it unfortunately was unable to address the issues raised in the petition
- Straw bales will be moved to the new hall between 10am and 12 noon on **Monday 13th April**. Please come along to help. BBQ afterwards
- There will be a public meeting in the Victory Hall at **3pm on Monday 13th April**
- A second public meeting will be held in the Victory Hall at **7:30pm on Tuesday 14th April**
- The voting period will be from 8am on Thursday 16th April until noon on Sunday 19th April. Individual voter choices will remain secret and postal votes will be accepted

The Victorious Swallowtail—what's your choice?

As many of you will be aware, the recent announcement that the name for the new village hall is to be the 'Swallowtail Centre' has resulted in a petition to persuade the Trustees to reconsider the decision. The Trustees met on 31st March to discuss how to respond. Whilst the Trustees are satisfied that they took reasonable steps to advertise the voting process prior to the AGM (when the first vote for the new name was taken), they recognise the strength of feeling arising from the proposed change.

The Trustees were, and remain, very keen to get a genuinely democratic outcome and, accordingly, have respected the wishes of many of you and decided to hold a new ballot.

Details of the voting process and supporting words for both viewpoints are presented in this Newsletter.

The Trustees have endeavoured to address all the points that have been raised with them over the past two weeks and have put a great deal of additional effort into this process, so please take the time to read the case for each name to understand both viewpoints before making a choice.

One of the concerns raised was that the process for choosing the new name was too hurried. Most people in the villages are probably unaware of the commitments made to the Big Lottery Fund in return for the very significant funds that they have given us.

The Trustees are very conscious of those commitments and are, quite rightly, very keen to make sure that they do their best to meet them.

One of those commitments is that the new hall project should be publicised with a wide range of media events. In order to achieve this the new building needs a name, and the Trustees were therefore trying to resolve the name issue in a democratic manner but within a reasonably efficient timescale that fits the construction and marketing schedules that must be adhered to.

If the earlier process appeared to be unduly hasty then please accept an apology from the Trustees—they were simply doing their best to meet the various deadlines they face.

The Voting Process— Please Read This First and Then Use Your Vote

The aim is for this special Newsletter to be distributed to every house in the three villages by the NIB distribution team (a big thank you to them!) by 9th April. Notices will also be displayed in the villages.

The Trustees have deliberately only offered two themes in the vote. Of the names put forward for consideration at the AGM (which included Combine, Green, Harvest, NIB, Trinity, Unity, Village...+ Hall) only the names that had 'Victory' and 'Swallowtail' in them received substantial support from attendees, so they are the only two shortlisted for this new vote.

Some Trustees felt that 'Swallowtail Hall' would have been a more appropriate name to put to the AGM but

this was not proposed by the community and the Trustees didn't want to overturn a majority vote. Similarly, the Trustees consider that it would be inappropriate to split, for example, the 'Victory Hall' and 'New Victory Hall' votes, or the 'Swallowtail Centre' and the 'Swallowtail Hall' votes, **so voters are being invited to specify their proposed theme and the Trustees will determine the final name**, guided by the ballot.

Two voting forms are provided at the back of this Newsletter. Additional forms can be obtained, if necessary, from the village shop but photocopies are also acceptable. There will be a public meeting in the Victory Hall at **3pm on Monday 13th April**, after we move straw bales to the new hall. A

second public meeting will be held in the Victory Hall at **7:30pm on Tuesday 14th April**.

Sealed ballot boxes will be located in the Neatishead village shop and outside Doreen Neave's house (Willow End, Staithe Road, Barton Turf). **The voting period will be from 8am on Thursday 16th April until noon on Sunday 19th April**. Individual voter choices will be kept secret (only an independent verifier will know individual choices).

Postal votes will be accepted provided they arrive by Saturday 18th April. They should be clearly marked on the back of the sealed envelope as VOTE FOR VILLAGE HALL and should be sent to:

Patrick Palgrave Moore, Chairman of Victory Hall Trustees, Woodpeckers, 2 Hilltop, Neatishead, NR12 8XQ.

There will be a Trustees meeting on Tuesday 21st April to review the ballot. They will then debate the name, taking into account the votes received for each option, and the result will be publicised on 22nd April and in the following NIB (subject to the Editor's deadlines).

If anyone has any questions or comments about this process please contact the chairman, Patrick Palgrave Moore on 631231 or Ian McFadyen on 630150 email ian.mcfadyen@victoryhall.info

WHY KEEP THE NAME 'VICTORY HALL'?

(Prepared by Sam Neville and supporters of the word 'Victory' in the title of the new hall)

Ever since the **idea** of a replacement for the Victory Hall was **first mooted**, it was **always referred to** as the '**New Victory Hall**'. When the Trustees and members of the committee began their **hard work** and **fund raising efforts** to build an eco-friendly replacement, it was **to build a "New Victory Hall"**. When members of the community were **supporting the fund raising** and **donating money**, that fund was **for the "New Victory Hall"**. **Until earlier this year**, we **all** thought of and **referred to** the new building as the '**New Victory Hall**'. The very name is **engrained in the Community**.

So engrained that when we did our leaflet drop and straw poll of the three communities to let you know about the **proposed change in name**, we quickly had just **over 200 replies** with still more coming in! Over **180** replies were **in favour of keeping 'Victory'** in the name of our Hall with **120** of those **from Neatishead alone**. Many others asked to have more information about all the suggestions that were raised at the 10th February meeting.

While the **new building** will be an **exciting attraction** for **tourists** and will need to be marketed as such, this building is **predominantly for use by** the **residents** of our three villages. We will be **living with it** and **using it** so it's therefore **important** that any name brings our **entire community together**, means something to us all and instils us all with pride. **Pride**, not only in the **remembrance** and **honour** of our **Armed forces** who **continue to sacrifice** for us each day, not only in the **Trust** and **Community** at large for having brought about this eco-centre but also in the **history** and **tradition** in our '**Victory Hall**' where this all began 90 years ago and will hopefully continue for another 90 years.

The **old 'Victory Hall'** building will be sold, redesigned or **renamed** as the new owner sees fit and it may only be a few short years before the **innovations** of the new building will hopefully **become common place** as ecological construction takes hold. The **name** of the new building is even more **important** because it is **continuing the legacy** and **representing** our **community** as a whole. Sadly, it is **not only** the **older generation** who have been **touched by War** and will have reason to **remember** and **honour** our Country's **Armed Forces** or who wish to **carry forth** the **tradition** and **history** of our villages. That's why it's so **important** that, however you vote, you **take the opportunity** to join in the democratic process.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and our earlier leaflet. We would like to take this opportunity to express our **thanks** to the **Trustees** for their hard work to date and for **listening to us** from the outset, when we first contacted them about our intentions to **rally the community** behind the decision making process back at the beginning of March. **Long may such co-operation continue**.

We'd also like to add our apologies to those few of you who may have been concerned that we did not add our names to the earlier leaflet; there was no subterfuge intended. We simply had so much to say but so little room! However, we did approach the Trustees and the village shop in person first of all and the leaflets were all hand-delivered. If you do want to **get in touch** with us, feel free to email **Sam Neville** from The Lane in Neatishead at keep_the_victory@yahoo.co.uk.

WHY THE NAME 'SWALLOWTAIL HALL' IS WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION

Less than 5 years ago the residents of Neatishead and Barton Turf enjoyed the benefits of having two local pubs, a post office and a restaurant that was open 6 days a week. In just a few short years the Barton Angler and the post office have gone and the Saddlery owners have very recently been forced into part-time opening because their business needs more customers. It is a fact that this general trend of decline in village amenities is repeated elsewhere: the modern way of life is eating into the fabric of many communities. Rural village halls, shops and pubs are closing all around the country due to lack of support.

Many of the people in our villages want to have a vibrant village hall and keep our friendly and welcoming shop, pub and restaurant but local demand alone isn't sufficient. The recent move by the Playgroup to the primary school means that the hall is now operating at a loss – the hire income no longer covers the operating costs. We **must** find ways to generate additional commercial revenues to fund the hall (without the need for constant fund-raising) if we are to keep it viable and maintain low hire-out rates for local users. These extra commercial users will also hopefully provide more spin-off income for our local amenities to help them too.

Important future revenue for the new hall will come from activities and services that benefit our community but which are often directly influenced by people who live outside of the three villages (yoga, pilates and the farmers markets are all relevant examples for the current hall). **Good marketing is therefore critical** to the financial future of the new hall and having an easily marketable name will help the Trustees encourage visitors to use the hall **and** the nearby local amenities. **New users from both inside and outside the parishes are essential.** We operate in a competitive, cost-conscious environment for users and every little extra 'selling point' is a small but important step towards helping keep our hall viable in future.

'Victory' is a difficult word to represent with a logo and for some it has connotations of men with guns standing over a conquered foe, which is much less appropriate now than it once was. The Trustees believe that the name 'Swallowtail', with an eye-catching logo, can be marketed very effectively in these climate-changing times. The image of the rare and beautiful Swallowtail butterfly, which is found locally, suits our Broadland setting, fits well with both the Neatishead primary school and the Broads Authority logos and is very meaningful to the primary school children of today, who will become the hall users of tomorrow.

Adopting a new name is certainly not intended as any disrespect for the Neatishead soldiers who helped purchase the existing hall after WW1. It will remain with us, and it will have an appropriate plaque on the outside wall commemorating those soldiers and their efforts. The plaque will be a powerful written reminder to future generations of the debt that is owed. Furthermore, the Trustees have already agreed that, if the new hall has a different name, the circular meeting room will be named the 'Victory Room' and it will house the Roll of Honour and other memorabilia that is presently in the current Victory Hall. **These steps will hopefully be an acceptable compromise that forms a bridge between the old and the new halls.**

Most of the people who attended the AGM and voted in the first ballot held on 10th February are long-standing residents of the community who are fully aware of the history of the Victory Hall and are deeply respectful of those who served and fell in the Wars. They are also concerned about the wellbeing of our community and, having listened to and considered the information put forward at the AGM, opted for a name that looks forward, rather than back. Some Trustees didn't feel completely comfortable with the name 'Swallowtail Centre' when it was put forward at the AGM but are happy to propose the name 'Swallowtail Hall' in this new ballot. They believe it is an excellent name for our eco-friendly new facility, one that fits the building well and which will help enhance our communities' future without forgetting our past. If you have any questions or comments on this then please contact Ian McFadyen on 630150 or ian.mcfadyen@victoryhall.info

VOTING SLIP

Please write legibly – if your name and address cannot be clearly read then your vote will be discarded	
First Name and Surname	Full address including postcode

I confirm that I am aged 18 or over, I live in the parish of Barton Turf + Irstead or the parish of Neatishead and I understand that I am only allowed to cast one vote in this election.

Signature.....

(If you do not sign your name then your vote will be discarded)

	Please tick ONE of the boxes below
The name of the new village hall should include the word VICTORY	
The name of the new hall should include the word SWALLOWTAIL	
My preferred name would be(circle one): New Victory Hall, Victory Hall, Swallowtail Hall, Swallowtail Centre	

Cut here -----Cut here

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