

New Victory Hall Update

Work is continuing generally to schedule with the new hall and the completion date is still set for mid-August. Some delays have been encountered with the green roof as it proved harder to obtain the Sedum than originally envisaged but most other elements are either on or ahead of schedule. Two of the three straw bale walls around the main hall area (the fourth wall contains Warmcell -shredded paper) have been completely rendered. The remaining timber frame elements for the kitchen, toilet block and street areas should be finished by the end of May. First fix electrical wiring has been completed for the main hall and work on the under-floor heating pipe-work and screeds should also be finished in the main hall by end of May. The new kitchen has been ordered and the 'transition team' is preparing plans for the move from the old building to the new building. If we remain on schedule then the formal opening of the New Victory Hall will be in September.

Funds remain very tight and efforts to raise more money via grant applications and fund-raising events are absolutely essential so please continue to support the new hall in any way that you can.

There are some lovely photos of the community straw bale event pinned to the Victory Hall notice board located just outside the shop and if anyone wants electronic copies of any of these then please don't hesitate to contact me at ian.mcfadyen@victoryhall.info or call on 630150.

There is an increasing amount of external interest in the project and the BBC, for example, is considering whether to include short pieces about it in programmes such as Country File, and CPRE has asked if it might be possible to include the new hall in its Norfolk open house week, which features eco-friendly buildings of special merit. All of this is good news in that it helps the Trustees to deliver the publicity that we agreed with the Big Lottery Fund, but it also highlights the uniqueness of our project and just how special it is.

Do you Want to Help Build the Straw Bale Meeting Room?

The circular meeting room for the new hall will be built from straw and rendered internally and externally with help, hopefully lots of it, from the people of Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf. The event will take place between 26th June and 8th July and will be supervised by Amazonails to ensure that we meet the necessary quality and safety standards. We expect to have about 15 people per day on site and are looking for a mix of local people and fee-paying folks from organisations (such as architects, planners, builders, educational establishments etc) to work together on the project so that people have fun and learn new skills whilst doing something positive for the community. There will be a £6 daily charge for local participants, to cover lunch and other basic costs. No previous experience is required as training will be given. Folks can help for just one day or for up to the full 12 days. **It's not difficult work and it should be great fun and very worthwhile so please join in.**

Unfortunately our insurance requires that we can only include participants aged 16+ for the course but the Trustees are also aiming to organise another open day on Saturday 4th July for everyone to come see the new building and to, possibly, help with the clay mixing and rendering..... This will hopefully include children – more details will be published in the next NIB.

If you are interested then please can you, as soon as possible (so that we can plan ahead and co-ordinate the numbers), complete and return the application form which is included with this copy of the NIB but which can also be obtained from the local shop or from the newly updated website www.victoryhall.info