

Frequently Asked Questions

Building the Straw Bale Meeting Room for the New Victory Hall

Aims and Objectives

The objective is to build and render a circular meeting room that forms part of the new village hall for Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf. It will be built using timber framing and straw bales on a pre-formed base and will be rendered with lime externally and clay internally. The aim is to involve members of the local community and other participants from further afield who have a more professional interest in straw bale / eco building techniques. Participants will hopefully acquire new skills and an enhanced sense of community involvement.

When Will The Course Be Run?

From 26th June to 8th July 2009, from about 8:30 am to 4:30 pm every day. During the first half of the course the walls, door and window openings will be constructed and prepared for rendering. During the second half of the course the straw bales will be rendered with lime externally and clay internally.

How Many Days Can I Attend?

Participants can register for one day, the full duration of the project or for any number of days in between. The Trustees reserve the right to limit places if demand is high and the only stipulation is that attendees must attend for at least one whole day because of the time required to complete the Health and Safety induction for new participants. Participants will be able to stagger the days on which they attend, should they so wish, to allow them to gain experience of building with straw and then rendering the straw.

Who Can Attend?

Anyone over 16 with a sense of humour, a willingness to work as part of a team and the stamina to complete a full day of light physical activity.

Where Is Neatishead?

About 10 miles north of Norwich and about 1 mile off the A1151 between Wroxham and Stalham <http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>

How Much Will It Cost?

Local people will be asked to pay a nominal fee of £6 per day to cover basic costs. Others, particularly those who perhaps wish to attend as part of their ongoing professional development, will be asked to pay £90 per day to contribute towards the costs of the instructors. A discount will be available for organisations that send attendees for more than 4 days (5th day free). A 20% deposit will be required by 8th June to secure each place and full payment will be required no later than 15th June to allow sufficient time for the organisers to finalise arrangements.

What is Included in the Costs?

Refreshments, a light lunch and use of basic safety equipment such as gloves and safety goggles (required when handling lime).

What Equipment / Clothes Do I Need?

Sensible footwear and comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Wellies and waterproofs for rainy days. All tools will be provided.

Who Are The Instructors?

A company called Amazonails www.amazonails.org has been hired by the Trustees to act as the project consultant. They will provide two experienced instructors to work with and train all the participants and, also, to ensure that the quality of the building is up to the required standard!

What Accreditation Will I Receive?

The course is not formally recognised by mainstream education bodies but all participants will receive a certificate to confirm that they attended the course and it is recognised by RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) as counting towards ongoing professional development training.

What About Risk Assessments and Insurance?

All activities on site will be risk assessed in advance by the main project contractor, the Trustees and by Amazonails, as this is a legal requirement. Details of the risk assessments will be provided to course attendees.

The Trustees, Amazonails and the main contractor all carry their own public indemnity insurance so participants will not require any insurance of their own but they will be expected to adhere to the reasonable requirements of the site managers to ensure that all work is carried out safely.

What Accommodation Is Available Locally?

Barton Broad is a well known tourist location so there are a number of guest houses, B&B's, camp sites and hotels locally within walking or cycling distance that will be pleased to have visitors. More details can be provided upon request.

Who Should I Contact For More Information?

Visit the Victory Hall website www.victoryhall.info or call Ian McFadyen (the Trustee Project Co-ordinator) on 01692 630150 or email him at ian.mcfadyen@victoryhall.info. An application form can be downloaded from the website.



Architect's drawing of the New Victory Hall which is currently under construction. The straw bale meeting room that will be built by course participants is the circular building to the left of the entrance. The roof and foundations will be pre-built by the main contractor.