

Dear Resident,

July 2006

In last month's newsletter we provided an update about the status of the fund raising effort for the new Victory Hall and explained a little about how we hope to raise the rest of the money needed for the project. We realise that the overall target of raising £350,000 will seem difficult (if not impossible) to many of you! However, we estimate that with the assets, donations and pledges already available we now only need to secure a further £150,000 - which is still a lot of money we hear you cry.....

That is true, of course, but we are very hopeful that most of this can be secured from various grants that are available (did you know that there are literally hundreds of organisations in the UK that offer grants to community projects such as ours?). Our recent discussions with government and county organisations that help rural communities secure grants have convinced us that we have a strong case, but we need to demonstrate that:

- The new hall is needed by the community
- The new hall will benefit, and has the support of, the community
- The new hall is commercially viable and able to 'pay its way' in the future
- The new hall will meet certain criteria specific to the type of funding we are seeking

The recently formed Victory Hall fund raising committee (which comprises Patrick Palgrave-Moore, Dolly Newton, Peter Simper, Paul Williams, Sarah Heaffy, Jason Scrutton and Ian McFadyen) is therefore currently assessing which organisations we should target with our first round of grant applications. At the same time, we are starting to prepare the business plan for the project. This addresses the social, environmental and commercial aspects of the new hall and is an extremely important part of our grant applications as it explains to the donor organisations why they should fund us.

We have no doubt that the new hall will benefit the community. For example, the Friends and Neighbours Club has a waiting list because the present hall is too small for all those (generally elderly) people that would like to use it; the Nancy Oldfield Trust cannot use it because of the lack of disabled facilities. We have no doubt that the new hall can be commercially viable, as it should be cheaper to operate and have wider appeal than the present hall. We are also confident that its design can accommodate many of the features (such as solar heating and disabled access) that are needed to help us win certain grants.

Which leaves us with the final part of the jigsaw that we have to put into place if we are to obtain grant funding - your support! We are much more likely to obtain the grants if we can demonstrate that there is strong, active backing from the local community for the new hall.

We recognise that there is a degree of scepticism about the achievability of the cash target; there is also a risk that we could all get 'fund raising fatigue' if we push too hard and / or too often for your support / money. We therefore hope to be able to encourage wider participation in the new hall project in several ways, as follows:

We aim to win over the community (that's you, too!) by being as open as possible with our plans and progress and by inviting you to participate in or comment on what we are doing. It is for this reason that we have recently set up the website (www.victoryhall.org.uk) and why you are receiving these newsletters. Please note that we are still developing the website so why not take a look at it? We have already received some very positive feedback about the site and the Newsletters, but more would be very welcome. Several offers of help for design work, electrical works and labouring have also been received, for which we are very grateful.

We hope that we can further develop the community support by organising a number of events each year that not only raise funds for the new hall but which are genuinely enjoyable. Various ideas are being considered, some of which are described below. If you have any ideas or are willing to help out in any way, no matter how small, then please contact us via enquiries@victoryhall.org.uk or call Dolly Newcombe on 01692 536 354.

What's Happening?

The '200 Club' is up and running, with the first draw scheduled for 8th July in the Victory Hall. A good number of people have already signed up to the 200 Club using the standing order forms sent out with the last Newsletter, but we would like more people to sign up. If you would like to join too then you can download the application forms / information from the website, or contact Dolly Newcombe.

Open Garden Days / Craft Fair Local gardens and the three churches will be open to the public on 8th and 9th July. Details are available on the website, in the post office and on local posters. There will also be a Craft Fair in the Victory Hall on these two days and funds from these events will go towards the new hall. An interesting mix of local exhibitors will display their wares, including wood turners, artists, jewellery makers, ...so please go along and support them as well as enjoying the local gardens. Refreshments will be available in the hall.

A Wine Tasting / Supper Evening is planned for 6th October, to be held in Barton Hall (with the kind permission of the Peel family). This will be an informal fun evening in a great setting with teams competing to see who knows the most (and the least!) about the wines provided with the meal. Further details will be issued in the NIB and in future newsletters but please keep the date free in your diary for now (and plan to leave your car at home...).

Other Ideas The fund raising committee has come up with several possible ideas, including a *Safari Supper*, reviving the local *Barn Dance* (next year), *bonfire night event*, an *event at Xmas*, *Talks* from local personalities, more **Craft Fairs**, another **Casino Evening** etc. There are bound to be lots more good ideas out there that are suitable and we would like to hear about them from you, so give us some feedback! We also need people who are willing to share the load by helping to organise events or providing assistance on the day.

Remember, the funds we raise locally are important, but it is even more important that we show our support for the New Hall by participating in some way (even if it's just by attending events) as this is key to securing the grants needed to achieve the target.

Patrick Palgrave-Moore

On behalf of the New Victory Hall Fund Raising Committee