

# OLD SCHOOL NEWS

## Dallington Village Hall January 2019



A lot has happened in the Old School village hall in The Street during the last twelve months. To celebrate National Village Halls Week, here is a brief update which we hope will encourage anyone who hasn't visited the hall recently to come along, enjoy good company and support this vital community asset. We now hold a weekly "Library Café" (details below), in addition to regular events during the year such as quiz nights and plant sales. The hall is currently used by local groups including Art Club, Book Club, History Group and Women's Institute, and welcomes new user groups.

It is also available for private hire with the benefit of brand new kitchen facilities. More information about the hall overleaf and at our web page at <https://dallington.org.uk/village-hall/>

### New Kitchen

Having redecorated the main hall and reroofed the toilet block the previous year, we were finally able to begin the long-awaited refurbishment of the kitchen, necessary to bring it up to a modern standard and comply with new community kitchen requirements.

Work started last winter, with the old kitchen being removed as soon as the W.I Christmas lunch had taken place. There was then some essential damp proofing work to complete before we could start to redecorate the room and install the new cabinets and equipment. These were chosen by a group of regular users, and include a dishwasher, fridge, induction hob and built-in oven.



*Our shiny new kitchen*

The work was carried out by an amazing group of volunteers, initially led by Pete Welfare. When Pete became too ill to continue, the other members of the team stepped up to complete the project. Sadly, Pete died this summer, but was able to attend a private view of the completed kitchen just before the official launch in June. Pete was a stalwart member of the management committee and will be much missed.

### Library Cafe



While still working to complete the kitchen, we heard that East Sussex Council were planning to withdraw the mobile library, so we decided to step in to fill the gap.

Volunteers helped to clear the stage area of the hall and instal some donated bookshelves. Judy Jeremy secured a large donation of fiction and non-fiction books from a local bookdealer, and many more, including children's books, have since been donated by villagers. Visitors can borrow books and DVDs whether or not they have anything to swap. No tickets needed and no charge.



Refreshments are also available, for which we invite a small donation towards running costs, and many people come just for the friendly company. The library café is open **every Monday from 2-4pm**, and on the **first Saturday morning of each month from 10-12**. The Saturday sessions usually include home-made cakes and a sales table. Do come along soon to take a look it at what's on offer.

## About Dallington Old School

Dallington Old School is a registered charity (No: 289652) managed by a committee of trustees, all of whom are local residents. The object of the charity is to maintain *“a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Dallington..without distinction of political religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation.. with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.”*

That has not always been easy. The fabric of this 19th century listed building (the former village school, hence the name) requires regular maintenance and occasional costly repairs. In the 21st century there are many competing demands on people's time, so it takes a bit more effort to come along to events or volunteer to help. But we think our community would be poorer if the Old School was forced to close. For over 150 years, it has provided a vital space for all kinds of village activities, a place to come together, meet your neighbours, and perhaps learn something new. Please help us to ensure it continues to do so.

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## How you can support this community asset

### Come along

The easiest way is to drop in to the Library Café on Monday afternoons 2-4pm (parents collecting children from Dallington School are very welcome) or on the first Saturday morning of each month. No entrance fee, no commitments, just a chance to browse and perhaps chat over tea and biscuits.

For other events, most people find out what's on through word of mouth or noticeboards, parish magazines and the village website at <https://dallington.org.uk>. To be sure you don't miss anything, subscribe to the website to receive an email whenever a new announcement is posted. (This also covers other village news.)

If none of the current activities appeal, then please let us know what else you would like to see happening. Even better, perhaps you could organise something yourself - we can help if you have a good idea.

We are currently submitting bids for funding to install fast fibre broadband into the hall. If successful, this will enable new activities such as a computer club.

### Can you help us with our running costs?

If none of the above are currently possible, but you would still like to help the hall to remain viable for future generations, then perhaps you might be willing to contribute in some other way - for instance, by donating equipment or through a one-off or regular donation to the Old School charitable trust?

Please contact our Treasurer, Pauline Ridley, on 01435 830152 if you can help - and if you can Gift Aid your donation, HMRC will give us an additional 25p for every £1 we receive.

**We are very grateful to all those villagers who have generously donated small or large sums or given their time to the Old School this year. Thank you.**

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### Book the hall for your own use

The hall is available for hire at £10 an hour (or £5 for regular user groups) for private functions such as parties or staff development events. This covers use of all facilities including the kitchen. The Billiards Room is also available for hire.

Please contact Karen Gillingham on 01435 831563 for all booking enquiries.

### Get involved

We are always looking for new volunteers, whether to serve on the committee or in a more informal capacity, for example to help with small maintenance tasks or to contribute refreshments or raffle prizes or ideas for events. Please contact Judy Jeremy on 01435 830460 if you are interested.

### Come to the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 29th January 2019 at 7.00 pm in the Old School

This is a chance to hear reports and plans from the trustees, to voice your own ideas for using the hall and to elect (or even stand for) next year's committee.