



Dallington Village Hall January 2020

A Happy New Year to all Dallington residents

To celebrate **National Village Halls Week (January 20-26th 2020)**, here is our second annual newsletter with some updates about recent activities at the hall and our plans for 2020. We'd like to encourage all local residents to come along to our events, including the Annual General Meeting on January 27th (details overleaf), to enjoy good company and support this vital community asset.

We hold a weekly Library Café in addition to regular events during the year such as quiz nights and plant sales. The hall is also used by local groups including the weekly Art Club, monthly Book Club, History Group and the new Poetry & Prose Group and Villagers Group. The hall is also available for private hire with the benefit of new kitchen facilities and wifi internet access. More information about the hall on the next page and at our web page at <https://dallington.org.uk/village-hall/>

Library Cafe



The Library Café goes from strength to strength. It is open **every Monday from 2-4pm, and on the first Saturday morning of each month from 10-12**. No charge or ticket needed to borrow books and DVDs, and you can keep items in exchange for a small donation or swap your own unwanted books. Refreshments are also available and the Saturday sessions usually include delicious home-made cakes. We were delighted when parents and children from Dallington primary school approached us last

summer to sell produce from the recently revived school garden at the weekly café to help raise money for both the school and the hall. The vegetables and flowers were much appreciated and we are all looking forward to the new season's produce. The sales table is now a regular feature; recently Art Club members designed and sold a range of Christmas cards, raising almost £100 for the hall.

Laptops & Broadband

The Old School has gone digital! Thanks to grants from Dallington Parish Council and Rother District Council we were finally able to install broadband into the hall, enabling free wireless internet access for users. We have also received a generous gift of four second hand laptops from Hastings author Francis Booth. These will be available during library opening, when someone is normally on hand to offer help using the internet or making the most of your mobile devices. If there is sufficient demand we may also run regular sessions on different topics. A new wireless printer means we can also offer printing and photocopying at 5p per sheet.

Snooker Tournament

A very successful Snooker Competition took place during the first two weeks of December, raising £150 and attracting new and experienced players for a series of entertaining play-offs. John Wyatt, the overall winner, receives three months free use of the snooker room. We hope to raise funds in future to restore this historic space (formerly the Reading Room) to its former glory. Please get in touch if you would like to help.



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.

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>. The site also covers other village news. To be sure you don't miss anything, subscribe to the website to receive an email whenever a new announcement is posted.

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.

Book the hall for your own use

The hall is available for hire at £10 an hour for private functions such as parties or staff development events, or £5 for regular voluntary groups. 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 Monday 27th January 2020 at 4pm (straight after the library café) 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.

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.
