

A warm welcome for all Dallington residents

Our annual newsletter coincides with Village Halls Week (January 23th -29th), a national campaign to highlight the contribution England's 10,000+ village halls make to rural communities. This year's focus is on the way that village halls can provide warm, welcoming and inclusive spaces – and that's something that Dallington Old School Village Hall aims to do every week with the community Library Café as well as our other activities. You'll find further information on the village website at <https://www.dallington.org.uk/village-hall/> where you can also sign up for email announcements about forthcoming events. All residents are also warmly invited to our forthcoming **Annual General Meeting on 15th February at 7.00** to hear a more detailed update and contribute to the election of trustees and discussion of future plans.

What's been happening in the hall?

During 2022, the hall committee worked hard to complete improvements to the fabric of the building and to encourage more residents to make the most of their re-opened hall after 18 months of lockdown. Sadly, some regular groups were no longer able to carry on, so we offered a temporary fee waiver to encourage new groups to start. One popular new addition has been a yoga class, now running twice weekly. Private events have included children's parties and regular staff development sessions for a local residential home. We also hosted a variety of well attended public events, including quiz nights, local history talks, a Jubilee exhibition "Dallington Celebrates" displaying photographs and souvenirs from village events over the past 70 years, a Christmas wreath making workshop, and ended the year with a festive Christmas lunch for over 30 villagers.

Billiard Room

After extensive repairs the Billiard Room is once again available for hire by individuals or groups (see website for details). One hundred and fifty years old this month, the room was originally built as a second classroom for the village school, and later became the home of the grandly named Dallington Reading Room and Mutual Improvement and Recreation Society. It's now a bright and airy space again – so do come along and play!



What's next?

Regular activities include:

- Art Club: every Monday morning from 10-12. A small informal group, we welcome new members whatever your level of skill, experience or confidence. Just call in on a Monday to see what's happening and have a go.
- Library Café: every Monday afternoon 2-4 pm and the first Saturday of each month 10-12. Drop in to browse the changing collection of fiction, nonfiction and children's books or just enjoy tea, biscuits and chat (not forgetting home-made cakes and bacon sandwiches at the monthly Saturday morning sessions!) Later in the year, we hope to restart the popular produce table selling fruit and vegetables from the school garden.
- Yoga: two groups, Thursday evenings 8-9pm and Friday mornings 11-noon. See website for details.

Forthcoming events include a traditional Beetle Drive (10th February) and the next Quiz Night in March (see website for dates and details) and we are still open to suggestions for the rest of the year.

Please let us know what else you would like to see happening in the hall

We would really welcome your suggestions for new groups and activities - particularly for and by younger residents - as well as one-off events and talks. With free broadband and a printer, we could perhaps offer a regular slot for people working from home, to provide a change of scene with some coffee and company. What do you think?

About the Old School Village Hall

How is it managed?

Located in The Street, just down the road from the Primary School, Dallington Old School is a registered charity (No:289652), managed by an annually elected committee of voluntary local trustees, whose object is to maintain “a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Dallington.”

The hall is a listed Victorian building so maintenance and repairs can be challenging and costly, though we have been helped by recent grant funding. The other challenge is to attract sufficient visitors and volunteers to keep the hall going when there are so many competing demands on people's time. But we think our community would be poorer if the Old School was forced to close. Please help us to ensure it continues to thrive:

- **Come along to any of our events**

As mentioned overleaf, the Library Café takes place every Monday afternoon from 2-4pm and on the first Saturday morning of each month. Nothing to pay, just drop in, browse, borrow and exchange. For other events, you can usually find out what's on through word of mouth or noticeboards and parish magazines. But to be sure you don't miss anything, please do subscribe to the village website at <https://dallington.org.uk> to receive email alerts.

- **Share your ideas**

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 main hall is available for hire at £10 an hour for private functions such as parties or staff development sessions, or £5 for regular non-commercial local groups. This covers use of all facilities including the kitchen and free fast broadband. The Billiard Room is also available for £5.00 an hour. To check availability and make a booking please visit <https://www.dallington.org.uk/village-hall/>

- **Volunteer your time – however limited**

We are always looking for new volunteers, whether to serve on the committee or in a more informal capacity. We now have a cleaner for one hour a week, but no regular staff so there are always other small tasks needed, such as ordering supplies, maintaining the outside planters, or contributing ideas, refreshments or raffle prizes for events. Please contact Jane Messer if you might be interested, even if you can only spare an occasional hour to help.

- **Help with fundraising**

If none of the above are currently possible for you, then perhaps you might be willing to contribute in some other way - for instance, by a one-off or regular donation or new ideas for fundraising? Please contact our Treasurer, Pauline Ridley, on 07702 104392 or email p.ridley@brighton.ac.uk 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 over the last few years. Thank you.

And finally... do join us for the Annual General Meeting on 15th February at 7.00

All local residents are warmly invited to the forthcoming **Annual General Meeting** at the hall to hear a more detailed update from the current committee, help elect any new trustees and discuss plans for the next year.