

Blo Norton Village Hall

The past year has been hard work for the BNVHMC (Blo Norton Village Hall Management Committee) but the results of that hard work are quite clear for all to see. Phase one of the halls refurbishment is nearly complete. We are in the process of getting blinds for the windows and once installed we will have a 1940's looking Village Hall on the outside with 21st century facilities and interior.

Phase two will be the refurbishment of the Bar and meeting room area, we are now starting to make plans for this.

Our aim is to ensure that the hall is accessible to all in the village for private functions, educational activities and organized events. We see it as the natural hub of the village. We try and promote the hall through offering its amenities free of charge in some instances to like minded organisations such as the PCC for their monthly Coffee mornings. However, in return they have donated mirrors, coat hooks and other items to us. We also offer the hall free of charge to any family from the village who wish to hold a wake there for their departed relatives.

Our annual favourites, such as Burns night, Quiz night and Pudding night all raise funds for the hall and bring villagers together. These would not happen without the hard working committee members, supported by willing village residents.

Local villagers, Barney and Myrte Davey, provided the opportunity for both the Village Hall and the PCC to raise funds for St Andrew's church and the hall at the Vintage Tractor Display, which was held on their premises. Visitors were encouraged to donate on entry, and both the VHMC and PCC ran various stalls, including refreshments, a tombola, and a raffle. The total raised was £2755.77 which was split between the church and ourselves.

The Harvest Supper, which took place in the village hall on Saturday, 11th October was a great success. Proceeds were split between the village hall and St Andrew's Church. Each received a total of £362.50. The auction of produce given by villagers raised £262.60, which was donated to YANA (YOU ARE NOT ALONE) a charity which provides mental health support to farmers, agricultural workers and rural businesses.

The village hall is able to do all the things it does to maintain that spirit of community thanks in no small part to the generous support given each year by the Parish Council. For which we are extremely grateful, this was exceeded this last year with the purchase of the new chairs for the hall. We are also holding a ringfenced contribution of some £800 given for the purchase of a new shed storage. This will happen in phase two the bar/meeting room refurbishment.

The BNVHMC meets monthly and is a lively cross section of the Village itself. The age range is from 20 something to the venerable Mr J Dixon. We have 7 members in total.