

# DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

## Website

The Village Hall Committee is currently working on a website for the village. It is hoped that this will be up and running in the next couple of months. We are looking for an old photographs, information relating to the history of Downham or any other information relating to the village. If you have anything that you think may be of interest please email [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com)

## Hall Extension

For many years the committee received requests for a stage and for the facilities to be upgraded and made more versatile for users. As these requests became more frequent back in early 2010 the hall management committee decided that they should look in more detail as to what may be feasible. This involved a lot of work and in March 2014 Chelmsford City Council approved plans for an extension to the hall. Due to the costs involved this has now been split into a two phase development.

**Phase One:** A stage would be created at the back of the hall, with changing & new toilet facilities to one side. Extra storage for tables, etc would be made underneath the stage. Piling for stage two would also take place.

**Phase Two:** To the right hand side of the hall a return would be built to form a smaller room. This would have foldable doors where the current windows are meaning that the original hall can be opened up and made larger or the new section could be used as a smaller size hall with its own toilet facilities. This would be ideal for a meeting room. It is also hoped to create a small garden feature at the side and there would also be an additional disabled parking space.

It is hoped that later this year we will be able to hold an open afternoon to show pictures depicting the history of the hall and the plans for the extension will be available to view. This will also coincide with 25 Years since the hall was opened after it was re-built.

## Fundraising & how you can help

We have £30,000 left to raise before we can start work on phase one and we need to start work soon to ensure that we do not lose grants that we have managed to secure. By the time you are reading this we will have had a quiz night and a Race Night is planned for 14th November and Harvest Supper on 24th October 2015. We are also currently looking at other fundraising ideas & are open to suggestions and any offers of help. Please email: [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com)

If you shop on line you can also help us without even leaving the comfort of your own home.

All you need to do is go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>, register and nominate Downham Village Hall. There are 2700+ retailers ranging from John Lewis, EBay & Marks & Spencer along with many insurance and travel companies that will donate to us, every time you visit the website and click through to a retailer & make a purchase we receive a donation. So if you are booking a holiday, taking out insurance, buying or ordering your weekly shop online you can help us.

We will be setting up an online donations site. More details shortly.

## Hall Bookings

We have a wide range of activities that take place in the hall, space does not allow these to all be listed this time, but these will be shown on the website. However, we do have vacancies for bookings at the following times: All day on Friday, Saturdays after 10.30am and Sundays 12 noon to 6pm. If you are interested in booking the hall then please contact the bookings secretary on 07549 454062.