



# NEWTON TONY MEMORIAL HALL NEWSLETTER

The Newton Tony Memorial Hall Committee are the guardians of the hall and work very hard, on your behalf, to raise funds to ensure the hall is maintained to a good standard.

To keep village residents updated with news and events relating to the hall, we have decided to create a newsletter that will be published four times a year; March, June, September and December.

We hope you enjoy reading it !!

## *A Brief History of the Hall*

*The Memorial Hall was built in 1920 as a living memorial to all those who died in the First World War and was a gift of Sir Harry Malet to the Newton Tony residents.*

*In 1926 Sir Harry sold Wilbury Park to Lt. Col. Despencer-Robertson, this sale included the hall and the grounds. After his death in 1943, Lt. Col. Despencer-Robertson's sister gave the village legal ownership of the hall, in her brother's memory.*

*During the following years the Hall was run by various types of committee until in 1974 the current 'Memorial Hall Management Committee' was legally established.*

## Your hall committee:

**Chairman** Tim Miles

**Secretary** Jacky Barker

**Treasurer/Hall Bookings** Sandra Caro - contact 01980 629838 or s8nge@btopenworld.com

### Representative Members

John Edwards	Representing St Andrew's Church
Matthew Helsby	Representing the Parish Council
Gay Clark	Representing Newton Tony School
Neil Smith	Representing Puffins Playgroup
Marion Davies	Representing Four Villages Horticultural Society

### Elected Members

Jacky Barker  
Sandra Caro  
Tim Miles  
Colin Hodges

### Co-opted Members

David Davies  
Mike Wilson  
Richard Hollins  
Janet Hollins

### Chairman's Comments

The Hall Committee manages the running of the Hall and Recreation field under the auspices of the Parish Council which represents the Village, who are the owners. Over the last two years we have made improvements to the hall, including the refurbishment of the Hall's ceiling, the clearing of the Jubilee Copse, modernisation of the Kitchen and our biggest recent project, installing a much needed accessible toilet with baby changing facilities. All of these projects and the ongoing maintenance of the Hall, were paid for from Hall funds. Income for the Hall comes from hiring out the Hall, our Marquees and various fundraising events. The bulk of this money is used to cover the electricity bills, water rates, insurance, maintenance and cleaning; the remainder is used to cover the refurbishment of the building.

The Hall Committee is comprised of a cheerful, friendly group of locals and although the meetings follow a formal agenda, they are carried out in a fairly relaxed manner. The membership of the Hall Committee is open to anyone in the Village but must include representatives of the various village organisations. New members are always welcome, if you think you would like to be part of the team please give me a call for more information. **01980 629792**.

Finally, the Hall and Field is yours; please make use of it for your own functions. We are always looking for new ideas for running the Hall, so let us know your thoughts.

**Tim Miles - Chairman**

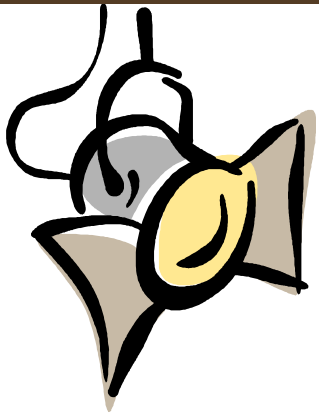
### Building the new Accessible Toilet

The Law (at the moment) does not require the Hall (being an old building) to have an Accessible Toilet. However, the Hall Committee decided three years ago, that as a matter of Duty of Care, it should try to provide an Accessible Toilet with baby changing facilities within the building. We employed an architect to provide drawings, which were approved by the Building Control. Quotations were received from four builders and ranged from £24,364 to £34,022, far more than the Committee believed was viable; grants were not easy to obtain for such amounts. The project was put on hold.

In 2013, the Committee, believing that it was important to provide this facility, re-addressed the situation and looked at an alternative, simpler solution which almost met the Building Regulator's requirement; the Regulator accepted and agreed to the change. We got in touch with local builder, Sean Jacobs, plumber, Rupert Heaton and electrician, Neil James for new quotations/estimates. The final solution involved moving the servery from one side of the room to the other and dividing the existing Gents toilet into two. To save costs, kitchen fitting, tiling and decoration was undertaken by committee members, the 'DIY Kings'. The resulting cost was in the region of £5,000, a significant saving as compared to the costs of the original scheme. To help fund the work we applied for a Community Area Grant and were successful in receiving a grant for £1,620 towards the cost of the project.

Work began during half term in the last week of October and only took a few months to complete. There are now just a few outstanding jobs to be finished before Building Control arrive to give their seal of approval and sign the work off.

**DIY Kings: Dave 'I don't like the pattern' Davies, Tim Miles, Lex 'cabinet maker' Barker, Mike Wilson, Richard and Janet (a queen) Hollins and the Welshman (aka John Edwards).**



## Spotlight on 'Rural Arts'



Rural Arts Touring is the county's rural touring scheme, for Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire bringing up to 72 live performances and 20 participatory events to rural communities every year.

Working with volunteer promoters in each rural community, Rural Arts Touring is managed by The Pound Arts Trust Limited in partnership with **Wiltshire Council**.

Our volunteer promoter for Newton Tony, is Joey Dewfall. Joey liaises directly with Rural Arts, and is sent a list of all the available acts for the coming season. The list is passed around to a group of residents who each vote for their favourite act, Joey then sends the top three choices back to Rural Arts in the hope that one of them will be available. Rural Arts always do their best to send us the act we have requested. Currently Joey arranges a Rural Arts event in the village, three times a year, all the events are held in the Hall and all monies raised, go towards the upkeep of the Hall. The Hall is entitled to 20% of the ticket sales, therefore the more tickets we sell the more money we raise for the Hall.

The Rural Arts events bring professional acts and musicians to the village, we have over the last couple of years hosted some fun evenings with excellent live entertainment. It has proved to be very successful and a great way of raising funds for the Village Hall.

The next Rural Arts event is on Sunday 9th March, we are hosting **'Buffalo Gals'** - an acoustic band featuring fiddle, guitar, bass and harmony singing. Combining respect for musical tradition with a fresh look at the folk process, they choose danceable songs from the best of folk, country and Cajun. They play old time fiddle tunes, original songs, and their own brand of Cowgirl Swing.

Tickets available from Joey Dewfall 01980 629472    £7 Adults - £6 Concessions - £18.50 Family

Optional 2 course supper served at 7pm - £6 (vegetarian option available)

Licensed Bar

**Come along for a great evening of entertainment, all within walking distance, you won't be disappointed!!!**

### The Children's Play Area

#### Safety in The Children's Play area

Whilst there is no specific legal responsibility to provide inspection and maintenance programmes for the children's play areas, the Memorial Hall Management Committee do have a legal and moral responsibility of care to people using the site. In order to meet this responsibility the site is inspected annually by an approved company. The last inspection was carried out by The Play Inspection Company on the 25th September, 2013. This inspection revealed that a number of **low risk** and **very low risk** deficiencies existed in the area but in general terms the site is deemed to be **Low Risk**. Many of the deficiencies involved the fencing around the play area and worn chain links on some of the swings. It was also pointed out that notices, giving contact numbers in case of an emergency, should be provided and sited adjacent to each of the entrances to the site.

Arrangements will be made to rectify, in due course, all faults identified in the report. In the meantime, I would ask that should you come across anything, that you may feel could cause harm to anybody using the site, please call me on **629358**.

Many thanks, **Mike Wilson**

