

# Lord Thurlow Hall News

## – Special Update

Exciting plans for the future and what your Village Hall Committee are doing to make this happen



You may have seen recently that it is 50 years since The Lord Thurlow Hall was passed on the village by Lord Thurlow. Over that time the hall has served the village well and under the excellent management of the many committees has continued to provide a unique and valuable community resource, hosting many memorable events over the years. We obviously want to see this continue and go from strength to strength. Clearly, to maintain the fabric of the hall and the various licences to operate, it's important to keep up the regular use and continually look at ways of increasing hires, all of which raises valuable revenue!

So, on the 50th anniversary, we feel it's now time to take the necessary steps to ensure the hall is fit for the future and can continue to serve the changing needs of all residents. We have an exciting but challenging plan to upgrade several areas over the next few years which will see the hall providing a safe and flexible place for all residents to benefit from.

The committee has done a great job in recent years raising funds for many projects and the hall is in good shape. However, the next steps need us to move up a gear and make some significant additions.

As well as the ongoing revenues from hall hires and other events it will be crucial to seek other sources of finance, such as grants, and the committee is actively seeking this out wherever it may be! As you may have seen from a recent WhatsApp message I sent out that we are applying for funding from the Platinum Jubilee Fund. This is a very complex application and Gail Peake, Roy Barker and I have been working on this. I am pleased to say we successfully negotiated Stage 1 but now we are busy getting together the information to submit Stage 2! As part of the application, we are required to come up with a project name. We have decided on 'FUTURE 50', which seems appropriate in the circumstances and acknowledges we are looking to the next 50 years of The Lord Thurlow Hall (and beyond ?!).

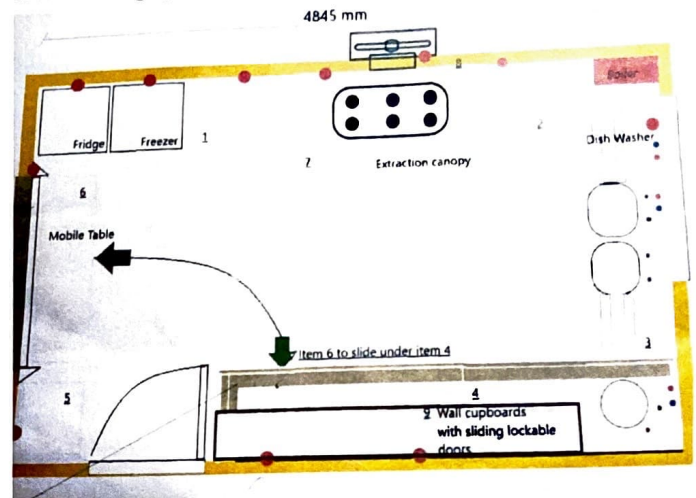
So, project 'FUTURE 50', what are the major jobs we want to do?

### 1. NEW MODERN KITCHEN

The committee previously identified the need to install a new modern kitchen that would provide the flexibility to allow catering and increase the 'hireability' of the village hall. Gail has been progressing the design of an impressive stainless steel kitchen with the associated modern appliances, such as an induction cooker, fridge, freezer and dishwasher. With this sort of facility it opens up many further opportunities for catering, for example, wedding receptions, conferences, training events, meetings and cooking classes. Gail and I have been working on getting together quotations for kitchen supply, building work and electrical upgrades to support the grant applications.

### 2. HALL LAYOUT

In order to install the new kitchen a number of important changes are planned. Apart from stripping out the old units and making good, we plan to remove the existing store



The new kitchen layout showing improved facilities



The old kitchen and bar area in need of improvement

cupboard and open up the archway behind the current bar area. This will increase the flexibility of the hall and improve the flow from the kitchen into the main hall. Alongside this work we'll install a new electrical supply to support the kitchen and fire safety changes, put down a new kitchen floor and repair walls and the ceilings. We will need to reposition the bar and further new storage will be added.

### **3. FIRE SAFETY**

Rules and regulations are forever changing in this area and we are not immune! While we are making changes to the kitchen and bar layout it's a perfect opportunity to upgrade our fire safety aspects to keep us compliant. This will include smoke detectors, heat points in the kitchen, improved accessibility and additional fire escapes.

### **4. ACCESSIBILITY**

There are a number of things we can look at here. It's important we do as much as we can to facilitate disabled access into the building, including better ramps, hand rails and emergency alarms in toilets. We will be making a new entrance on the North side of the building to give us an additional fire exit and this doorway will need some levelling work to make it disabled access friendly.

### **5. BROADBAND INSTALLATION**

We may have the opportunity to get this installed and part-funded as part of the current project so we want to go ahead while we have the chance. This will be a useful benefit to hall users from a convenience and safety point of view.

Fortunately, most of the above work, apart from appliances, is eligible for the grant we are applying for but it's important to understand that, even we are successful, the grant will only cover a percentage of the capital costs, in this case only 20%. So, it is pretty clear that the committee will be looking at all possible opportunities to seek other sources and fund-raising ideas.

It was very pleasing to see the overwhelming support to our recent WhatsApp survey and this gave us the impetus to take our plans forward and push on to achieve these important improvements to The Lord Thurlow Hall. Going forward, we would very much welcome any ideas and suggestions on how we may generate funds to support our objectives and we are calling on the great residents of GREAT Ashfield to help us out!

Depending on the outcome of the grant application, we will know what funding will be needed to achieve our plans. We can then formalise the fund-raising ideas and make this visible to all residents. As is usually the case, it's important to see the target to shoot for and this will help to focus our efforts as a community.

So you are aware, the next step for the grant application is to complete the Stage 2 application by April 21st. There will be project reviews with the Platinum Jubilee Fund

organisers in April to discuss details. We'll keep you posted as things develop. Wish us luck!

## **WHAT'S ON AT THE LORD THURLOW HALL IN 2023?**

### **VILLAGE HALL PUB NIGHTS**

Pub nights have been a great initiative and have been a great place to meet and greet new residents and to catch up on gossip! A big thank you to all the volunteers who have hosted the bar nights and set up the evenings. We obviously want to continue to keep these going and increase attendance, which slipped a way a bit during the pandemic.

For 2023 we want to do more themed pub nights and we have a few ideas which we are working on.

On MARCH 3rd it will be QUIZ NIGHT. Every one is welcome to come along and enter a team if you think you are clever enough! The format will be as follows:

- \* TEAMS OF UP TO 4 PEOPLE
- \* £10 ENTRY PER TEAM
- \* PRIZE TO THE WINNING TEAM

Please let me know if you want to enter a team and your team name by FEBRUARY 28th.

We are also looking for raffle prizes for March 3rd Pub Night and other village hall events. Please get in touch with any of the committee if you can help out.

We are planning more themed pub nights – more on this later! But do let us know what you would like to see. All ideas welcome!

All the usual annual events are of course going ahead, subject to availability and volunteers, including the summer BBQ and Pumpkin Night. Again, we have some interesting new ideas for annual events which we will share with you when we have worked out the details!

The next Pub Nights are planned for:

**MARCH 3rd at 7.30pm**

**APRIL 7th at 7.30pm**

**MAY 5th at 7.30pm**

### **VACANCY FOR COMMITTEE TREASURER**

As you may be aware, Roy has kindly agreed to remain as Acting Treasurer on The Lord Thurlow Hall Committee until we can appoint a new treasurer. We are grateful for Roy's continued involvement and experience but we must let him get on and enjoy his well-earned retirement at some point!

So, would you be willing to take on this important role on our committee? If you feel you are able to help, please contact myself or Roy direct to discuss what's involved.

*Simon Laidler, Chairman, Lord Thurlow Hall Committee*