

CHARTHAM HATCH VILLAGE HALL
SOCIETY

SPRING 2006



Chartham Hatch Village Hall From an original drawing by Jon Wilmot, 1995

Late in the year it may be but we, the Committee, wish you all a Happy New Year.

As you know we still have a hosepipe ban and the pictures on TV of Bewl Bridge Reservoir show how little rain we've had over the past year; however, during these dull and damp winter days it seems as though we have had rain on most days in 2006. We do love a moan about the weather - roll on Spring and Summer!

Past events

Over the past months there have been a number of events in the hall for all to enjoy. There was a new event on 12th November – a Slide Show hosted by Tim Flisher in the form of a light-hearted quiz with slides from around the world, including some local scenes taken many years ago. Many thanks to Tim.

The Craft Fair was held on 20th November and, although the tables were full of varied and high quality goods, we did not have as many customers during the day as in previous years - it is believed that many other craft fairs were held on the same day. Those of us who spent time at the fair enjoyed the event; however, because of the poor turnout, we are considering not running the Craft Fair this year.

On the 9th December we enjoyed a Christmas Carol Concert in the hall and the Canterbury City Band provided a varied programme. The Ladies Group and the Hall Committee members produced refreshments during the interval – these were very tasty and the mulled wine helped our voices during the second half. Did the standard of singing improve after the mulled wine? Maybe! Thanks to everyone who contributed, we were able to make a donation of £180 to the East Kent Pilgrim's Hospice and have received a very nice thank-you letter from them which is displayed on the noticeboard outside the hall. Jan Clover gave a short and interesting talk about the Hospice and we thank you, Jan, for stepping in at the last moment.

Forthcoming events

Our next event in the hall will be the **Wine & Wisdom on 18th February**. Speaking from a personal view, I would like this event to be re-named 'The Can and Can't' evening! Whilst we do have the correct license for alcohol now, at one time it was questionable so hence the can – the can't is because my team, and myself of course, can't answer the questions. We do however enjoy the challenge and the company on the night.

The **Plant Fair** this year will be on **20th May at 2 pm** which gives us all plenty of time to start thinking about sowing seeds, dividing plants, etc. As usual, the Village Hall will have its own table and all donations will be gratefully accepted. Again, as usual, if you wish to book a table to sell your own plants/produce, ring Jenny on 731395. This year, as a change, there will also be a Village Hall White Elephant stall, so if you have any White Elephants you no longer need, or indeed any other items you would like to donate,

please bring them along on the day or get in touch with any Committee Member. The main thing, though, is to come along and buy!

The **Village Hall AGM** is on **27th April at 7.30 pm** – please do come and receive a financial update and hear about future plans for the hall. We would also welcome any ideas for new events in the hall.

The committee is about to lose some members and so we would be grateful if anyone would come forward to fill the gaps. Young or older members please, we need new blood and new ideas. We also need someone to take over the job of Booking Clerk; Janet Hitchen, our current clerk, needs more time to devote to her family, grandchildren and her own daytime job. The job of Booking Clerk is very interesting and a great way to get to know the people in the village. Do please get in touch with any members of the committee if you could spare a little time to either be a committee member or the Booking Clerk.

On the **9th June** the **l'Arche group** will be sleeping overnight in the hall en route to Canterbury. Georgie Talbot is the co-ordinator and would be very happy to receive offers of help to provide and serve food. Maybe you could join in with the evening service held after the evening meal? Also could you offer your bath or shower for the carers to use after their hard day's work? Please contact Georgie on 738747 if you can help.

Following last year's very successful concert, we are hoping to hold the **Summer Band concert** with the City of Canterbury Band in July, again on the Recreation Ground, date still to be confirmed. Should the weather be unkind, we will hold the concert in the village hall. Those of you who came last year will know that deck chairs or garden chairs are more comfortable than the hall chairs on the uneven ground! We are very hopeful of another lovely sunny day for this event, as last year's event was wonderful.

Weekly, fortnightly and monthly events are ongoing in the hall – see the notice board for details.

The Village Hall will also be the venue for the **Chartham Chameleons** who will be presenting readings on "*Phantoms, Fakes and Fantasies*" at **7.30 pm, Saturday 25th February**. Tickets on the door or from Marjorie on 738369. Not for the faint-hearted!

The next exhibition by the **Historical group of the Chartham Society** will be in September and will be about Chartham's Paper Mill and River Stour. If you have any information that you think may be of interest to the group about the Paper Mill or the River Stour (including the Corn Mill), please contact either Norton on 731395 or Veronica on 731343.

Newcomers to the village may like to know that parish events are advertised weekly in the local news section of the Kentish Gazette and monthly in the Parish Magazine which also carries local advertising. If you would like to receive a regular copy of the magazine, please contact Ruth on 738395. It costs £4.50 for a year.

**The Hall is available for hire at very competitive rates
To book, ring Janet Hitchen on 738093**

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