

November 2011

# GV &CA NEWSLETTER

For Regular Users and Supporters of Grimsargh Village Hall

Grimsargh Village Community Association, Grimsargh Village Hall, Preston Road, Grimsargh, Preston, PR2 5JS  
Tel: 01772 652960, Registered Charity No. 504698

Hi Folks!

As we're now into the second half of the autumn term, no doubt your thoughts are turning to Christmas – ours certainly are. Hence this newsletter will be talking about some of the things coming up at the Village Hall and how you can be helping out!

There are also items detailing changes on the Committee and outlining challenges we are planning to face.

*Eileen Murray*

## Committee Changes

We are most delighted to say that we've now got two new members on our Committee:

Nigel Green – married to Donna & very familiar to those of you who attend the Farmers' Markets. Nigel is the chap who greets people when they arrive and provides advice and information at the door.

Nikki Coupe – a regular attender at the Farmers' Markets, she let it be known that she'd like to get involved at the Village Hall and came along to our Annual General meeting to find out more. We didn't manage to put her off and so she has joined us too.

There were further changes at the Annual General meeting. Eileen Murray stepped down as Chairman and Anthony Cowell accepted nominations to take on the role, with Siân Middlebrough becoming the new Vice-Chairman.

## Invoicing System

As discussed in the February Newsletter, an invoicing system has now been piloted with a couple of groups and will be rolled out across all regular users shortly.

## A Sustainable Village Hall for the Future

We all love our Village Hall (don't we!) and want to see it continue to prosper far into the future.

The recent changes with the hall extension and new kitchen have been very welcome and we hope to continue to make improvements to the facilities.

However – there are going to be challenges ahead.

Everyone will be aware of what is happening with fuel prices. Here at the Village Hall, we have seen our gas and electricity bills rise by 20% and 16% respectively in the past year.

Our combined fuel bills are currently an eye-watering £7,600 per annum!

Increases year on year are being reliably predicted for the foreseeable future.

So, without any actions we would quite quickly get to a situation where our margins (income minus expenses) would be getting to be of concern again.

So that's the bad news. The good news is we have already identified things we can be doing and we are going to be setting out a programme of actions. As yet, this does **not** include putting up hire rates for our Regular Users!

The broad plan is a two-pronged approach. Increase income and reduce expenditure. Simple.



An obvious starting point will be reducing our fuel consumption and there are lots of examples of inefficiencies around the hall – we know about many of them, but they all take time to put right!

The second “prong” will be a ramp up in the marketing efforts to increase the utilisation of the hall – especially at weekends and during the summer holidays.

Eileen Murray is going to be picking up the co-ordination of this dual-focus “project” and there will be more details to follow.

If you have any suggestions for things we can be doing, do please email them to Eileen – eileen@gvca.co.uk.

In the meantime – we can all be doing our bit – starting with turning off lights we don’t need on, etc.

## Hire Agreement for Regular Users

A bit like our previous (lack of) invoicing system, our arrangements with regular users have always been somewhat “informal”. Although, generally, everyone has “known” when each group has the hall, nothing was written down or formalised.

Not an ideal situation and it has caused some issues with lack of clarity of hire periods/scope of facilities booked, etc.

Hence we are about to start to introduce Hire Agreements for our regular users. The primary purpose of these will be to ensure there is a clear record of the times of hire periods and the facilities that are booked.

We’ll also be putting in payment terms which will, in the main, simply reflect what is already happening.

## Christmas Fair

Our primary fund-raising event, this will be held this year on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2-4pm.

To our Community Users (you know who you are!) – we hope you’ve got your stalls all planned out & we will be seeing some lovely, interesting

and attractive stalls. We also put out our appeal for helpers in the kitchen, cakes to sell and a raffle prize from each group – thanks, in anticipation.

One further small (but niggling) point – we’ve noticed an ever increasing number of “stall-helpers” each year. This year everyone pays the entrance fee – helpers and Committee members included. It’s a very small fee after all.



To all users and “friends” of the Village Hall – we hope to see you there too – with your wallets - remember those fuel bills!!

## Double Guides

There is to be second Guides group starting a weekly session from this half term. Anyone wanting further details should contact Wendy Hall - 01772 701349.

We wish the new group the very best of luck with their early days of starting up!

## We’re on Facebook!



Love it, or hate it, Facebook is fast becoming a popular way of keeping up with all your favourite people, pastimes and places.

It’s a powerful communication tool for the likes of Community Groups and Village Halls too, so, we’ve joined in - with Facebook pages for each of the Village Hall and Farmers’ Markets.

So – go & find us and “like” us and then you’ll be kept up to date with news and events.

It will also give you an opportunity to let us know what you think about things and share what you like about our Village Hall/Farmers’ Markets with all your Facebook friends.

There are other users who have their own pages too – Toddlers have an excellent page, and the Flower Produce and Handicraft Show are just getting one established.

## Farmers' Markets Christmas Service

We've got an agreement with many of our most popular stall holders so that orders can be placed at either of the November or December markets and the produce collected from the Village Hall on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 6-7pm.

We know that many of you love to be able to get your fresh produce, on your doorstep, but the 17<sup>th</sup> December would be too early for Christmas. So now you can just place your orders and have the convenience of collecting the goods, here in the village, in perfect time for Christmas!

## Thanks!

It's been a good year for the hall, with lots going on and relatively incident free.

We do appreciate the support and co-operation we get from our Regular Users and supporters – so "Thank You" and long may it continue!

## Committee Details and Contacts

**Anthony Cowell** – general enquiries and maintenance items – 01772 654509

**Sian Middlebrough** – Hall lettings & bookings plus Farmer's Markets stall-holder enquiries: 01772 705383. Email: [bookings@gvca.co.uk](mailto:bookings@gvca.co.uk)

**Richard Foster** – Regular users – payments, receipts: 01772 652981

**Eileen Murray** – website, newsletter, invoices, suggestions for the "two-pronged" project! Email preferred: [eileen@gvca.co.uk](mailto:eileen@gvca.co.uk) or phone: 01772 655812.

Other Committee Members are:

Vicky Barker  
Nikki Coupe  
Peter Croft  
Nigel Green  
Evelyn Heginbotham  
Eileen Parker  
Donna Rowe-Green

## Calendar of Events

The following is a list of those forthcoming village events that we are aware of, at time of going to print:

- Farmer's Markets – third Saturdays in the month, 9am – 1pm – next few dates:
  - 19<sup>th</sup> November 11
  - 17<sup>th</sup> December 11
  - 18<sup>th</sup> February 12
  - 17<sup>th</sup> March 12
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Fair
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Over 60s Christmas Party – with Guides helping again this year – many thanks!
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – Sydney Gumboots – Field Day Fundraising event
- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – Twisted Romance – Field Day Fund-raising Event
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Swing Band Night – kicking off the events for the "Grimsargh Celebrates Preston Guild" week – details of the rest of the calendar will be available on the Parish Council website.
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Field Day – Parade gathers at the Village Hall.

Further details of all events to be held at the Village Hall can be found on our website:

**[www.gvca.co.uk](http://www.gvca.co.uk)**