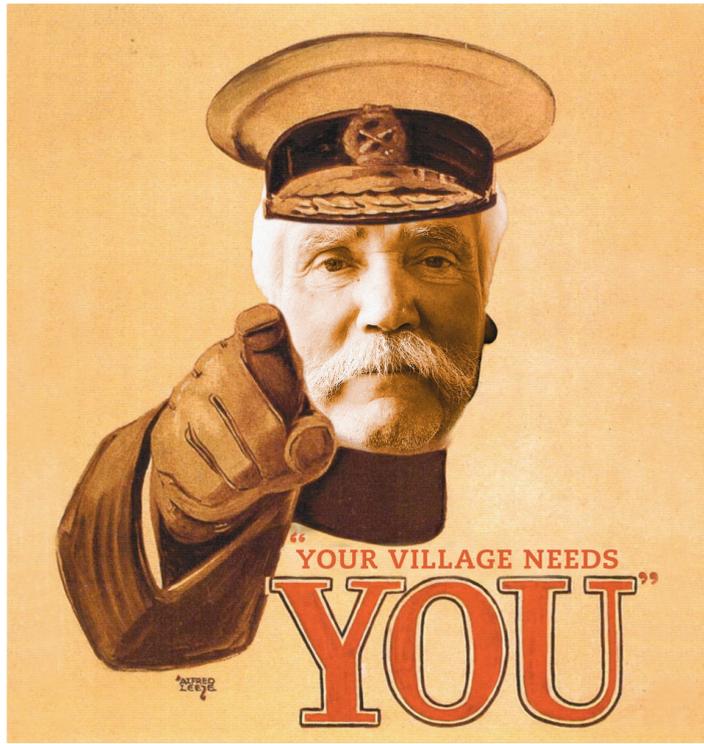


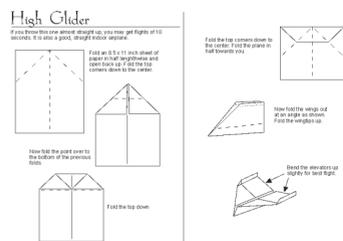
# Hadlow Down The Last Word



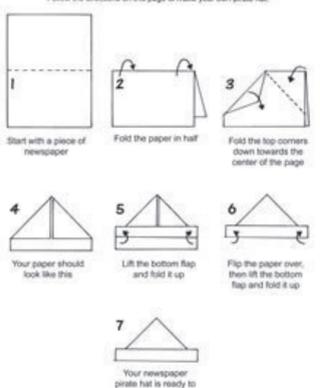
This newspaper was put together from the heart by the team that hope to bring you a brand new village hall

We appreciate some of you may be completely uninterested! In the spirit of not wasting resources here is our handy guide to re-using!

Don't be caught short! Prepare for the next run on loo roll - cut into handy sizes squares Use as a firelighter Line a Rabbit Hutch Make a paper aeroplane Fold into a sunhat (We'd love to see your photos! Send them to us via Facebook) Or keep it and give us a call on 01825 830857



### NEWSPAPER PIRATE HAT



## About Us

The Hadlow Down Community Centre (New Village Hall) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation 'CIO' which is a charitable designation. To see our annual accounts, visit the Charity Commission website <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/> Registered Charity Number 1158375

You can read our Constitution on our website [www.newvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.newvillagehall.co.uk) Trustees - Bob Lake, Fiona Shafer, Janet Tourell, John Thompson and Nigel Harrison Sarah Prall Committee member

We are a mixed bunch who all love Hadlow Down and are committed to making the plans for the new Village Hall a reality. Our backgrounds range from teaching, the creative arts, building and construction, and business consulting to name but a few.

We are always on the look out for new talent so if you would like to become involved, email Bob Lake [bob.lake@live.co.uk](mailto:bob.lake@live.co.uk) and join in the fun! We are keen to be as representative as possible, we would be delighted to have some representation from younger residents.



**Bob Lake - Trustee and Chair HDCC**  
Now retired after a career in education, sport and private consultancy. Bob and his family moved into the village in 1991 and he has served as a volunteer for the Playing Field and continues to volunteer for the TNZZ Lunch Club and Hadlow Down Community Centre. He is also a member of the Hadlow Drama and Variety Club. He became involved with HDCC in 2010 and has been chair since 2012.

**Why is being part of the New Village Hall Committee so important to you?**  
We have loved living here for the past thirty years. It is a truly unique place to be with much going on provided by a small group of dedicated volunteers - long may it continue. I became involved with HDCC, not only because I felt that I could make a contribution but also because I believe that the parish requires a suitable facility able to meet the demands of the 21st century and the needs of future generations.



**Fiona Shafer - Trustee HDCC**  
Sussex born and bred, I moved to Hadlow Down 12 years ago. As a former Chair of the HDCC Playing Field Committee where I was involved with the development and implementation of the drainage project for the new Football pitch and the resurrection of the Village Bonfire Night I thoroughly understand the background and the need, to combine the Sports Pavilion and the Village Hall facilities for the community and future generations. I believe that we are all

incredibly lucky to live in Hadlow Down - it is a very accepting community in a beautiful part of the UK. **Why is being part of the New Village Hall Committee so important to you?** Volunteering allows me to contribute something back to making life better for others. I have made fabulous friends along the way, who have made me laugh until I have cried and provided me with the opportunity to do something very different from my grown up day time jobs as a Managing Director and a freelance Motoring Editor.



**Janet Tourell - Trustee HDCC**  
I am an actress and theatre director who's worked in rep and then mainly in children's theatre. I ran my own children's theatre company for many years. I was Chair of the HD Village Hall Committee for eleven years having fallen into it accidentally!!! I'm passionate about the Village having a new and improved Community Centre, the people of Hadlow Down deserve a modern and vibrant meeting place for social and sporting occasions.

**Why is being part of the New Village Hall Committee so important to you?** I volunteer to give something back to a community that is important to me.



**John Thompson - Trustee and Treasurer HDCC**  
Now recently retired (well, semi-retired anyway), I have lived in Five Ashes (on the outskirts of Hadlow Down) for 33 years. I got to know the village and started meeting other residents when both my children attended St. Marks School in the late 90's. I was 'volunteered' on to the committee of the Playing Field in about 2008 - I'm still not quite sure how that happened! I also started to help out with the Variety Club around this time using my 'technical' skills for the sound and lighting.

**Why is being part of the New Village Hall Committee so important to you?** Working with the Variety Club showed me the limitations and serious shortcomings of the current Village Hall. So when a campaign started to build a new Community Centre in the village I obviously supported this project. To offer my support I joined the committee as treasurer to help move this project forward. Adding to my then and still current role as treasurer for the Playing Field, they say retirement is supposed to bring rest and relaxation but I seem to be spending ever more time attending to Village activities. Still, you can have too much relaxation (probably!)



**Nigel Harrison - Trustee**  
I was born in Hadlow Down in 1947 and have lived in and around the village ever since. I worked with my father until his death in 1988 working in construction. Our business included working on refurbishment projects and building maintenance for retail premises including Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Asda, plus others. I am now retired living with my wife Carol. In 2018 I became chairperson for HD Playing Field after being a Trustee for a number of years. For many years I have also been a member of the HD Drama and Variety Club, being involved with many successful productions.

**Why is being part of the New Village Hall Committee so important to you?** With my very long association with HD, I am passionate about 'my, our village' and believe a new Community Centre on the Playing Field with the accent on leisure will greatly enhance our facilities for the future. Please support us, thank you.



**Sarah Prall HDCC Committee**  
I am a freelance stylist and writer. My work often takes me to beautiful and surprising locations but I am always happiest when I get back to Hadlow Down. I am so inspired by our fantastic landscape here on the high weald. Since 2014 I have been involved in organising the Village Fayre, The Big Village Parties, The Hadlow Down Festival and the Hadlow Down Remembers Events. I am currently Chair of the Hadlow Down Village Fayre Committee, although seeking to retire

**Why is being part of the New Village Hall Committee so important to you?** I am passionate about supporting the effort to build a new hall for future generations of the village to enjoy. Since moving here in 2011 I have been so overwhelmed by the fantastic clubs and societies that exist here. I have grown to love this village and all the brilliant folk that live here. If I can help in some small way to build a Hall that is sustainable and fit for the next 50 years I will feel I have supported our wonderful village and its residents both now and in the years to come.



# PROGRESS . VOLUNTEERING . FUNDRAISING



## Bob Lake, Chair of the Hadlow Down Community Centre Committee writes about our project - a new village hall and sports facility for Hadlow Down

Hadlow Down Community Centre is a charity established in 2014. Our aim is to manage the design, fundraising and building of a new Village Hall and Sports pavilion at the playing field. The project aims to provide a new hall and sports pavilion, providing better access to new and existing services, social and leisure activities. It aims to reduce isolation, improve physical and general well-being and enhance community cohesion for all residents.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform every parishioner of the current situation with regard to the provision of our new hall. Already many of you will have an understanding of the project. Some of you may have moved into the parish during the past two years and this may be the first time that you have heard that we have this ambition to provide a modern and appropriate building to replace both our existing village hall and sports pavilion. For those of you that have moved into the parish of Hadlow Down, a warm welcome and we hope that you will enjoy living here and becoming involved with the local community.

The project began in 2008 when the Parish Council at the time initiated a project to look into provision of a new 'community centre' for the village and a small working party was created. To date, progress has been painfully slow and this has been due to several issues - a lack of funding, planning constraints and more recently the Covid pandemic. Now, with renewed optimism, we feel that we can re-double our efforts to move forward and realise our ambition to have a new hall.

In June 2019, we were granted a five year planning consent for the new hall to be built on the playing field site adjacent to the existing sports pavilion. Modern sports facilities will be a feature of the new hall and when construction is completed, the current pavilion will be demolished. Successful in securing £40k of grant funding from a Government funded Community Buildings Programme and using some

of our locally raised funding, we were able to engage the services of MJB Architecture to design the new building and put together the planning application. This design was approved at a community meeting held on 3rd December 2018 (nearly sixty people in attendance).

So now we await a final figure for the cost of the new build and the completion of our 'draft' business plan before we start on our fund-raising efforts. It is anticipated that such funding will come from a variety of sources - The Big Lottery, Sport England, Football Foundation, Sport England as well as local community event fund-raising, donations and legacies and many others.

**The Hadlow Down Community Centre Committee (HDCC)**  
HDCC is a registered charity operated as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Currently it has five trustees - Bob Lake, John Thompson, Janet Tourell, Nigel Harrison and Fiona Shafer, one committee member - Sarah Prall and a Parish Council liaison - Rachel Lewis.

It is supported by two specialist sub-groups chaired by one of the trustees and comprised of several local volunteers. The sub-groups are the Building & Design Group and the Fund-Raising Group.

We don't believe in holding 'meetings for meetings' sake' as we appreciate how busy people's lives can be! Currently main committee meetings are being held monthly and usually they take up to two hours.

### We need your help!

- Do you have experience:
  - writing business plans, particularly associated with new build community halls?
  - in the preparation and writing of funding applications?
  - PR and advertising?
  - Negotiating and securing sponsorship/donations?

There is no doubt that to raise **£1.2 million** is a pretty formidable challenge but we are confident that it can be done. Our optimism is based on a very strong 'can do' attitude and a belief that we have the necessary expertise and support from our community to do so.

In fact, if you are keen to support the project in any way we are looking for new committee members and project advisors. Please call me if you would like to be involved or discuss any element of the project. Bob Lake - 01825 830857.

Bob Lake



## Julian Michaelson-Yeates, Chairman of the Parish Council on progress to date and a renewed focus on fundraising for the New Village Hall

As the shadow of the pandemic lightens, once again our community can resume where we left off many months ago to focus on fund raising for the New Community Centre. As a community we were fortunate to respond quickly to the pandemic and create the Village Volunteers to assist and support our vulnerable residents. This was possible because we could draw on strong community ties and organisations built up over time.

The village hall plays a vital role, within our community - either as a place where organisations meet or where the village comes together and connects. The village hall is a wonderful asset run by a dedicated Committee and serves us well. However, even the most ardent supporter would admit that the present location is far from ideal. It's helpful to remind ourselves, especially for those of us who are newer to Hadlow Down, how the drive for the New Village Hall came about.



In 2011, a village 'door-to-door' survey was carried out and the majority of parishioners voted for relocating and building a new and improved community centre on the Playing Field. The Hadlow Down Community Centre Committee and charity was formed, drawing on representatives from the village organisations both former and present, and they started work on different proposals. After consultation with parishioners, an agreed design received full planning approval in 2019. All of the committee's work to date has been paid for through fund-raising and grants. During this time, a second outline planning application was also approved for the demolition and development of the current village hall site with a condition that this won't proceed before a New Community Centre is built.

When the Hadlow Down Estate was sold in 1948, a generous benefactor bought the former village hall on the current site and gifted it to the village with a condition that should the site no longer be required, its disposal was to be decided through a village vote. When the time comes for disposal, a committee made up from different organisations and stakeholders will be formed to prepare options including the part funding of the New Community Centre. Options may be put forward for alternative uses. As fundraising for the New Community Centre resumes, I would like to thank all those on the committee for their work and service to this community which we all share.

Julian Michaelson -Yeates

## Inside

**Page 2**  
Hadlow Down Volunteering and community engagement  
*The Power of Volunteering*  
*A Tale of Volunteering and the triumph of Community*



**Page 3**  
Hadlow Down History & Memories  
*Hadlow Down's Village Hall*  
*Reflections on growing up in Hadlow Down*  
*The history of the Village Fayre*



**Page 4 & 5**  
Hadlow Down Village Hall Plans  
*Progress to date on the new hall*  
*More about the thinking behind the design*



**Page 6**  
Hadlow Down Volunteering and Clubs  
*The future of Hadlow Down MW Cricket Club*  
*Hadlow Down Drama and Variety Club & the prospect of the New Village Hall*  
*Making sure the New Hall is accessible to all*  
*Latest news from The Playing Field*



**Page 7**  
Hadlow Down Fundraising  
*Fundraising to build the New Hall*  
*Hadlow Down Community Centre Lottery Club*



**Back Page**  
About Us  
The Last Word

# Hadlow Down Volunteering and Community Engagement



Inn, serving one of the best pints of Harveys in the county. Thinkers Park and Wilderness Wood but we are also blessed to have the community organisations that we do.

If you think you just drive through Hadlow Down on the 272 and nothing happens here... well think again. You will no doubt get to hear local folk lore about the surrounding ancient woodland night time activities, "wildlife", Monty python signage, Beer kegs under hedgerows, a "Live" Donkey at the Christmas Eve Carol Service who once bolted and headed off in the direction of Buxted with a tea towel on his head and the Cricket umpire, who spared the spectators blushes with a swift brandishing of a cricket jumper as a streaker rushed across the wicket one lazy summers afternoon....

This is a diverse village, rich in community activities. A stunning Village Fayre, Cricket Club, new football pitch, Horticultural Society, TN22 Club, pop up restaurants at the tiny sports pavilion, Short Mat Bowls, Bonfire Night and one of the very best Pantomimes ever - to name just a few of the many activities that go on in the Village.

Absolutely none of this vibrant activity would take place without Volunteers from the Village and in some cases our neighbouring communities.

With no shops or regular public transport in the village - it is the community that is at the heart of Hadlow Down.

If you have moved here for a peaceful life off the beaten track then you will get that but if you are keen to meet new people, get to see and share in what makes this special community "tick" and have skills and experience and some time to offer - from just an Hour to a few hours a month - there are plenty of volunteering opportunities available throughout the Village but in particular with our New Village Hall Project.

The point at which we have now currently arrived at with the New Village Hall has been entirely down to a committee of volunteer trustees who have been working on this project since 2009. As a committee we remain passionate and dedicated to the successful completion of this fabulous project for the benefit of the community and future generations.

We would love to have new volunteers

to collaborate with us to achieve our Vision of building our stunning and sustainable new Village Hall and Sports Pavilion, to house so many of the current village activities, to bring our community together even more post pandemic and vitally importantly, to have a sustainable village resource for the future.

So why would you want to Volunteer? For some it provides an opportunity to:

- give something back to an organisation that has impacted on a person's life, either directly or indirectly
- make a difference to the lives of others
- help the environment
- help others less fortunate or without a voice
- feel valued and part of a team
- spend quality time away from work or a busy lifestyle
- gain confidence and self-esteem.

Volunteering can also be a way of:

- gaining new skills, knowledge and experience
  - developing existing skills and knowledge
  - enhancing a CV
  - improving one's employment prospects
  - gaining an accreditation
  - using one's professional skills and knowledge to benefit others (usually described as pro bono).
- Ref: NCVO.org.

As many of us are aware, the volunteering response to the pandemic was remarkable.

Across England, 21% of people formally volunteered and an extraordinary 47% of people informally volunteered - we know what a vital role volunteers played in the response and continue to do so. Ref: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

The pandemic has brought familiar and new challenges in encouraging and enabling people to volunteer and we are sure that all organisations up and down the land hope that the experience of this increase in volunteering, will encourage many people to further volunteer as our nation and in particular our small and very precious communities start to reconnect and rebuild back better than before.

If you are interested in talking to us about Volunteering, we would love to hear from you. Please email [fiona@omegablu.co.uk](mailto:fiona@omegablu.co.uk)  
**Fiona Shafer**

# Hadlow Down History & Memories



Clearly the opening of the Red Triangle Hut was an eagerly anticipated event and judging from the number of occasions it subsequently hosted: parties, social evenings, wedding receptions, the Autumn Festival etc. it was very successful; older people in the village still talk about 'the Hut' with a good deal of affection. As it was situated in the centre of the Village with a field behind it for sports, it seems, along with the New Inn at the top of Hut Lane, to have become one the premier meeting places for the community. However by 1965 it was definitely starting to show its age and in July that year it was knocked down and in November of the same year a replacement was opened and became 'the Village Hall'; it's still there!



Throughout the remainder of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first, the community has continued to come together in the Hall. The types of meetings have changed over the years along with the age-groups participating but then so has the Village. The advent of improved transport communications and changing work practices have meant that Hadlow Down, once a village with a predominantly local, rural, working population has become a 'dormitory village' consisting mainly of a mixture of the retired middle-classes and busy commuters who work in the large conurbations of South East England.

building needed to be replaced, after all it had served the community well for almost fifty years. In 2008 the Parish Council initiated a project to look into provision of a new 'community centre' for the village incorporating an attached sports pavilion; the current pavilion was showing the ravages of time also.

A number of site options were investigated by the Council and in 2010 a 'working group' was formed to consider the way forward. It was charged with investigating possible sites including the current one, what type of building was wanted, size and usage and most importantly whether there was support for the project from the people of the village. This working group has subsequently become the Hadlow Down Community Centre Committee.

A public survey of the whole village was organised by the Committee in the autumn of 2011. Villagers were asked to consider carefully if they wanted a community centre, where it should be located and what sort of activities they would like to see there; each household was asked for a response. Over three hundred households were canvassed and approximately two hundred and sixty replied, the vast majority being in favour of constructing a new centre and wanting it to be on the playing field site. The Committee took this to be a positive response for the new build and recommended to the Parish Council that a new community centre should be constructed on the playing field.

Since then the Committee working with the Parish Council has appointed an architect- MJB Associates, after studies of other local halls and consultation with Hall users a design was approved and planning permission granted for a new hall and sports pavilion at The Playing Field. We are now embarking on our crucial fund raising phase. We are looking for funders and sponsors alongside applying for grants. Could you help us? Given the enormity of the project for this small village, it is acknowledged that it may be a few more years before it finally reaches fruition but history shows that Hadlow Down has seen the need for a community venue twice before and has been successful in acquiring one - it can do it again!

**Janet Tourell - abridged by Sarah Prall**

## Hadlow Down's Village Hall. Past, Present and Future

Hadlow Down's first village hall, although not named as such, was a large hut obtained from the YMCA and erected on land donated by the Eridge Estate; it was always known as 'the Hut' or 'the Red Triangle Hut' after its previous owners' symbol. Opened on June 8th 1921 by Princess Marie Louise, Queen Victoria's last grandchild, it immediately became the focal point for many of the village's activities. The Hut hosted many social occasions, classes, Horticultural Society meetings, the Organ Club, British Legion (male and female branches) the Happy Circle for older members of the village, the Jazz Club, the Pied Pipers drama

group, and the Bowls Club. It was also used for more formal meetings such as the Church Parochial Council and the Parish Council.

Before 1921 there had clearly been a necessity for a village meeting place. Until the opening of the school in 1838 there were no community buildings in Hadlow Down. When the school opened, suddenly there was not only somewhere for children to be educated but also a place for villagers to meet and enjoy leisure activities together. In 1909 the Sussex Express reported that a concert to raise funds for the football club had taken place at the school, later another report in the same newspaper stated that the school had been the venue for a large political gathering; then again in 1910, it reviewed 'a very enjoyable and successful concert' with a 'programme of recitation, banjo and mandolin, song, pianoforte and comic song' in the school.

Some of the older clubs and societies have continued to meet in the Hall: the Variety Club's amateur dramatic society can still draw crowds of villagers to pantomimes and murder mysteries. Likewise meetings of the Horticultural Society are a regular feature; the Short Mat Bowls Club and the Dog Training Group, both meeting once a week, have also managed to keep going. Lately, with the popular trend for exercise Zumba, Tap Dancing, Latin American Dancing, Boxing and Gentle Exercise for older ladies have all featured in the hall diary; the Hall is once more becoming a busy meeting place for the community. The latest addition to this varied mix of activities has been the TN22 Clubs for the over sixties which meets once a week for lunch and entertainment.

Increased usage has sadly highlighted obvious symptoms of the hall's advancing age. Some years ago it was therefore agreed by the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee that the current



## The Power of Volunteering - it is what makes us a happy and diverse community

If you are a new resident to Hadlow Down over the past 15 months, you will not have had many, if any opportunities due to the pandemic, to experience what a pretty extraordinarily supportive and social neighbourhood this is. Or if you have lived in the village for a while now and are intrigued

to find out more about what exactly is going on around you and what it is that makes Hadlow Down "special".

For what is a technically a "Hamlet" of around 840 people, the plethora of social activities is very impressive and draws many friends, friends of friends, family members, sports fans, steam engine enthusiasts and plain curious folk from far and wide to find out what all the fuss is about. We are very lucky to have the globally famous and much loved, architectural oddity that is The New

## A Tale of Volunteering and the triumph of Community

In 2014 an article quietly came and went in the parish magazine. The Village Fayre Committee were retiring after many years of service. I read it and mourned the passing of an annual ritual and, yes I felt a prickle of interest that I quickly quashed as foolish. Some weeks later I was walking with my friend Lally, she looked at me and said "Did you see the article?"

And I knew I was sunk. "Yes" I replied. "We can't let it happen" she said, and so it was. We plotted, we hatched, we recruited, and we dreamed, we eyed rolled, we laughed, we stressed and we made this magical thing happen. Not once but five times to date in various guises. We rigged tents, we made signs, we created art work, we sourced local food, and we met everyone! Yes! Everyone. And yes, we did cry sometimes with exhaustion, exhilaration, joy, frustration we went there with full hearts and had them broken a couple of times. But, mostly we found kindness and generosity, encouragement and friendship. I hope if you came to one of our events you could feel the love and care that went into putting them on. Often it's the tiniest details that take all your blood and sweat. When I look back on all that we have done I can't quite believe it!

We received this from one of our stall holders after the 2019 Peace Day Event  
*Members of my family (London based) are involved in research in mental health...town versus country. It seems very evident that Community Events such as yesterday are vital. Yet men and women are so busy these days that they/we say we don't have time to help. But there is a great feel good factor in helping isn't there? Also joining in with the great body of mankind is so good for us.....*

I know that it can at first seem daunting to join a group that is established, I certainly felt anxious about joining the Village Fayre Committee. But it also felt like the right thing to do and before too long I had met and made new friends, and bit by bit I felt more and more connected to our Village. I wish I could say something to encourage younger members of our community to join our gang of volunteers. Bring a friend if it would help? Come to a meeting and see what goes on!

As always, the life blood of this community is the people who take part. This is not only the Committee members, but also the volunteers who keep a good list of fun things on the Village Social calendar, those who cut the grass with the Mower in the summer, who interest themselves with keeping the Playing Field and Village Hall in order, who regularly turn up to help other associations, and the many who assist at major events like the Fayre and the Fireworks. These people should all be thanked and acknowledged by us all; the Committees are the heart of the Hadlow Down Community, and the spirit of taking part and joining in keeps the heart beating.  
**Sarah Prall**



## We asked Julian Michealson- Yeates to tell us a little of the history of the Village Fayre

The Summer Fayre in its current form on the playing field started in 2003. Prior to this the Church Fete went back as long as anybody remembers. I asked Nigel Harrison who was born in 47 and he always remembers the Fete in the grounds of the Grange. The Fete had stalls down one side of the lawn with games down the other. The children would do country dancing and there was always a fancy dress competition. He recalls it being the high point of the year but I suppose he isn't a horticulturalist who might argue the point on that one. I haven't spoken with Dawn Johnson who is the only other person who would be able to confirm what happened before the war, all the others such as Gerald, Cecil, Joyce and Charles are all dead now.

The Fete wouldn't be setup until the morning it was being held just in case it had to adjourn to the Village Hall in case of bad weather. I got heavily involved in the Church Fete in 1998 (being the youngest parishioner and member of the PCC) and at that point it was basically a Church fundraiser which consisted of a plant stall, cake and preserves stall, tea and refreshments, bash the rat, welly throwing, coconut shy, bric-a-brac which was always run by Katherine Harrison (she frequently commented that in years gone by it was less bric-a-brac and more fancy goods), a raffle, I think one year we had roll the bacon ... that was about it. The school always ran a bottle stall / tombola and

provided the country dancing (something all the boys looked forward too - yeah right!). The last year of the Church Fete was 2002 and it was unusually held at Hyders that year. Unfortunately the date clashed with England playing Denmark in the World Cup where we won 3-0, consequently relatively few people turned up.

So, why did the Summer Fayre start? Well I think that the England Vs Denmark debacle had a little to do with it but in reality setting up a Church Fete starting only in the morning, moving all the tables and chairs, putting up gazebos and filling urns, well it got a little much for the few parishioners who were still able bodied. Also, it became very clear that fewer people were attending because it was a Church Fete rather than a Village Fete. Once upon a time it would have been one and the same but in these secular times, perhaps people thought you had to go to Church in order to attend. Of course you always got the old villagers who always had attended but these got fewer as the years rolled on. Other than church parishioners, parents of St Marks (of which they were few old villagers, it was quite a gentle affair.

Guy Davies who lived in Little Manor suggested that if the Fete was held on the Playing Field and the word Church was dropped from the title, perhaps more associations and societies would feel inclined to help out and participate and the numbers attending might rise. At that time, the village had the Playing Field but it was really very little used. I was on the Church Parochial Council



## Nigel Harrison, life-long Hadlow Down resident reflects on growing up here and what the New Hall project means to him

My name is Nigel Harrison I was born in Hadlow Down over seventy years ago, and have been a resident here for most of my life. During that time I have witnessed some important changes in our village. We are on the verge of another major change with the construction of a new village community centre and combined sports pavilion to be built on the playing field in School Lane.

I support this new venture mainly because having known how well the village hall worked in combination with and adjacent to the then sports field. Unfortunately, after a great deal of negotiation between various people, including my father, and various village organisations with the then owners, nothing became of it being purchased for the use of the village and hall.

When I was a child I well remember having a great deal of fun in the hall and the field on cricket and football days. We were able to play in the field when various functions were held in the hall, our mums knew where we were and did not need to worry too much about us. Tea was served on cricket days for all.

An extension to both the toilets and kitchen areas are required in the existing hall along with adequate storage facilities. A new roof is now required along with new guttering, fascias and soffits. New doors and windows, the floor needs attention to floor joists, external drainage as water continually runs under the floor. A bad smell is an ongoing problem, however, this we believe is a Southern Water problem. There are other areas in need of some attention in addition to those mentioned above.

A new community centre facility would benefit our village tremendously, indoor sports will be possible, badminton, bowling, dancing. There will also be an area for entertaining in the sports pavilion as well with other reception areas available, all very exciting. There will be a new car park complete with water saving facilities, a new children's play area adjacent to the main hall, so mums and dads can keep an eye on their children and have a coffee as well on the patio. It could well be possible, with negotiation, to run a footpath behind the houses in School Lane to join up with the school, thus making direct access to the playing field and hall with children not having to walk adjacent to our dangerous roads. Please join us in supporting this fantastic, exciting project, we can do it!  
**Nigel Harrison**

# Hadlow Down Village Hall Plans



## Progress to date on the Design and Planning rationale for the New Village Hall

In 2008, Hadlow Down Parish Council started the process of investigation of the provision of a replacement Village Hall for the village and in 2010 a working group was formed to consider a more detailed appraisal of the scheme. The Hadlow Down Community Centre (New Village Hall) Committee was formed and following various public consultation from 2011 to the present date, the replacement scheme which has now been approved, evolved.

### Current Users Groups

Whilst coming to the end of its service life, the current building does provide valued functions as a community gathering space and recreational facility. Various Clubs and Societies are based at the building, including the Amateur Dramatic Society, Horticultural Society and Short Mat Bowls Club. In addition to this, various dance and exercise classes use the main hall and a weekly meeting group for the over 60's known as the TN22 Club.

The facilities offered by the hall are extremely limited for all of these groups. The building lacks WC and welfare facilities commensurate with a modern hall and in particular, the facilities created for compliance with disabled access and use regulation are at best rudimentary. The building lacks storage space and the hall itself is not of proportions suitable for certain user groups and therefore its functionality to the wider community is compromised.

Whilst reasonably located for the centre of the village and pedestrian access, the building severely lacks proper vehicular access and parking facilities and all roads and approaches to the site are largely unmade, meaning that access for all user groups, most notably those with mobility issues can prove to be a challenge.

**Use of the New Hall**  
Hadlow Down Parish Council and the Hadlow

Down New Village Hall Committee have sought to provide a solution to the problem of providing the much-needed improvements to the facilities for existing user groups and to enable others who cannot currently use the building to enjoy facilities perhaps taken for granted in other similar villages within the district.

Moreover, the need to replace the dilapidated Sports Pavilion at the playing field site means that the need to address the quality of the community use buildings within the village is extremely pressing.

Following the completion of an outline design brief plus in 2015, the Hadlow Down Community Centre Committee appointed this Practice to prepare preliminary designs for a building to encompass the provision of a new Community Hall, plus a replacement of the Sports Pavilion on the playing fields site. This work was undertaken

*Hadlow Down New Village Hall Committee have sought to provide a solution to the problem of providing the much-needed improvements to the facilities for existing user groups and to enable others who cannot currently use the building to enjoy*

during 2017 and has culminated in the completion of two further public meeting and consultation exercises and a detailed Pre-Application Advice process with Wealden District Council. Planning permission was subsequently granted in 2019. The new facilities will effectively replace those currently provided for within the existing Village Hall and Sports Pavilion, albeit that in both cases they will now be furnished with the requisite WC, changing facilities, welfare facilities and storage, commensurate with a modern Community Hall, fully compliant with the requirements of Sport England.

Furthermore, the project will encompass the provision of parking facilities suitable for a building of its size and a complete range of access,

parking, welfare and user facilities for disabled groups with specific mobility and sensory issues.

The requirement is to create a more usable hall space which is not significantly larger than the original Village Hall, but which provides for a greater of flexibility in use and most notably to create a more usable width of hall and a greater amount of clear headroom, thereby enabling a wider range of activities to take place within.

In replacing the Sports Pavilion, the opportunity exists to create proper changing facilities for home and visiting teams, plus match officials. The existing Pavilion does not provide facilities which are considered adequate at present and this severely restricts certain user groups, particularly the younger age groups who are subject to a number of safe-guarding requirements which current facilities cannot currently meet.

### Development Concept

The requirement to create improved facilities to serve the hall space will inevitably generate a larger building than the current Village Hall on Hut Lane.

However, the aim is not necessarily to provide a substantially larger hall space for public use and in fact, a direct comparison between the two principle hall areas is as follows:

Area of existing main hall space 5m x 8m = 116m<sup>2</sup>  
Proposed replacement hall space 0m x 10m = 180m<sup>2</sup>

The replacement hall will be served by a permanent stage area, a large store for chairs and other equipment, a small secondary meeting room and a kitchen/servery.

Beyond this, the scheme will provide for a large covered entrance foyer with pram storage area, male and female toilets with a number of facilities commensurate with the size of the building, disabled WC facilities and baby- changing facilities plus space for plant and equipment storage.

The Sports Pavilion element will contain two separate changing areas with shower and toilet facilities, plus a separate official's toilet and changing area, a Pavilion Club Room with small kitchen and bar servery plus additional toilet facilities and a separate store beneath for grounds equipment.

The layout has been specifically designed to provide the minimum amount of circulation space needed to link the various elements of the hall together, but does include staircase and lift facilities to the first-floor Club Room area.

### Neighbourhood Consultation

The Hadlow Down Community Centre team have undertaken numerous consultations with interested parties. A number of informal meetings have been held between members of the Parish Council, but the two primary public consultations

**The Sports Pavilion element will contain two separate changing areas with shower and toilet facilities, plus a separate official's toilet and changing area, a Pavilion Club Room with small kitchen and bar servery plus additional toilet facilities**

have been in the form of public meetings held at the existing Village Hall during the course of 2017 and 2018, where the scheme was presented in detail to local residents and detailed interactions, including workshop sessions were held to obtain feedback about the use of the building, design and layout and the principle of development itself.

This generated a number of interesting responses and where appropriate, these have been incorporated into the final scheme.

We are now in the process of creating detailed drawings so that a Quantity Surveyor can be appointed. This will give us the most accurate assessment of our building costs.

More details of the Design and Planning for the New Village Hall can be found on the website on the Planning page [www.newvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.newvillagehall.co.uk)

\*MJB Architecture worked on similar successful community projects in Five Ashes and High Hurstwood Villages. To find out more about their work please see [www.mjbarch.co.uk](http://www.mjbarch.co.uk)  
**Mike Barber**

## We asked the principal architect on the project, Mike Barber, to tell us a little more about the thinking behind the design

### 1. Design Rationale

A number of key factors have been considered when the design for the new Village Hall was developed. These are summarised as follows:

#### i. Site Constraints

- The sloping relief of the land
- The presence of the existing cricket pitch
- The mature sylvan setting with important trees set within the site and around the boundaries
- The requirement to form a usable parking area close to the building
- The sensitive location of site within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

#### ii. Multi-Use Facilities

The building is required to provide a number of functions, not least the provision of a replacement hall of sufficient size for multi-user groups, with adequate kitchen, storage and toilet facilities. In addition to this, the project is required to include changing facilities for use in conjunction with the cricket pitch and playing field and a cricket pavilion to provide home to the village Cricket Club. The cricket facilities must also provide the requisite secure storage for maintenance equipment.

### 2. Design Response

Given the requirement to make this building as economically effective as possible and therefore deliverable, it was decided to contain all of the

**However, the sensitive edge of village location on a sloping site within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty led most parties to believe that the most appropriate form of development would be a traditional style building**

facilities required in one building envelope. The form and nature of the design must be kept simple in order to provide a simple and cost-effective means of construction, but also to create a visual appearance which fits within the setting.

### 3. Contemporary or Traditional Vernacular?

It could be argued that a modern design would suit a building of this nature, and this was considered from the outset. However, the sensitive edge of village location on a sloping site within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty led most parties to believe that the most appropriate form of development would be a traditional style building, with a form and scale which would echo the older agrarian-style buildings set within the AONB nearby.

A simple palette of locally recognised materials, including stock brick, oak framing, oak weatherboard and a simple muted grey roof finish would create a form and design which would fit within its setting and be unobtrusive.

The form and scale of the building is somewhat dictated by the need to create a multiuse hall, with sufficient area, proportions and height to comply with the requirements of Sport England and other funding bodies, who will only assist with the funding of such projects if they comply with these requirements.

Whilst the incorporation of multiple different uses within one building envelope does create challenges, the design addresses these through its layout and the ability to enable different user groups to occupy and use the building and facilities at the same time.

### 4. Focus and Sense of Place

This is a comparatively large project for Hadlow Down village. It is intended to provide a building of high design quality and easy, functional use in order to attract high levels of use from within the village and the wider local community. It is intended that the building should be something which the village is invested in on multiple fronts and would therefore take a sense of pride from having achieved its delivery and ongoing use.

**Mike Barber**



# Hadlow Down Volunteering and Clubs

## As we look forward to improving the sports facilities at the cricket pavilion, Peter Smyth reflects on the future of Hadlow Down MW Cricket Club

As Hadlow Down MW Cricket Club embarks on their 14th season of Sussex League Cricket its good to reflect on the progress of the club, the facilities and the playing members.

Hadlow Down Cricket Club were about to disband in the 1990's and were re-generated by the arrival of wandering side, Moulsecomb Wanderers, who were seeking to secure a 'home' ground. The two clubs joined forces to become Hadlow Down MW and begin to play their 'friendly' Sunday home fixtures on the Playing Field.

As the membership grew, one new member encouraged the management of the club to consider playing in the East Sussex Cricket League. In 2008 this became a reality starting in Division 11 East. Quickly the side rose through 3 divisions with three successive promotions and in 2013 they were promoted as runner - ups to Division 6 East. However, personnel began to move to pastures new and the team and the club had to begin to rebuild again. By 2018, when the East Sussex, West Sussex and Mid Sussex Leagues amalgamated the club was still in the mid-way of the league system and struggling to survive demotion. In 2019 the club were finally demoted but as fortune has it the club saw an influx of young players from Buxted Park Cricket Club and for the first time four young players from the village itself.

The club sees a future in these young players, including two young female cricketers, one

of whom represents Sussex Ladies Under 19's as a very useful wicketkeeper/batsman. On Wednesday evening during the summer months these young players are being coached to improve their game, if you are over 14 you could join them. Contact Dave on 07989 921517

Over the last five seasons the cricketing facilities at the club have also improved. With the purchase of a high grade roller and mower, funded by the grants and the fund raising of the volunteer Playing Field Trustees. They have organised successful Bonfire Nights for the villagers; a Pop up restaurant in the summer months and a Race Night in the Village Hall.

Like all village cricket clubs across the country they are always dependent on volunteer helpers and Hadlow Down is no different. So, if you are able to play, manage, organise or just give up your

time to help with making teas, scoring or mowing the cricket square, we want to hear from you. **This little Club still has a lot of Growing to do. Peter Smyth.**



## John Thompson shares the latest news from the From The Playing Field

It's been an unusual 15 months or so from the beginning of lock down. From 'No Ball Games' to limited cricket in September 2020. Then more lockdowns and now, things are getting going



## Sarah Prall spoke to Glenys Lake about the Hadlow Down Drama and Variety Club and the prospect of the New Village Hall

"How wonderful it will be for us to perform in the New Village Hall on a larger stage with all the necessary accoutrements!"

Since 1982 we have managed to present pantomimes, variety shows, and theatre suppers for eighty along with murder mysteries - in spite of the inadequacy of the current hall, where audience capacity is limited and the cramped, communal dressing room space does not allow for

modesty! It will be brilliant to have an adequate audience space and appropriate, dedicated dressing room facilities.

**Performing On A Bigger Stage:** The stage in the current hall is tiny. For every rehearsal and performance, a minimum of six people have to lift and erect heavy extensions both at the front and sides of the stage. These have to be dismantled at the end of every usage to enable other hall users to pursue their activities during the week. It will be fantastic to have an adequate purpose-built stage!

**Storage:** At the current hall, storage is impossible and so

our scenery, costumes, wigs and props are stored at the New Inn, by kind permission of the landlord, besides the many lofts, wardrobes and barns scattered around homes in the village and beyond. It will be wonderful to have purpose built, dedicated storage facilities at the New Village Hall where our equipment can be held centrally and accessed easily.

**A Bigger Kitchen:** Feeding eighty people at our Murder Mystery evenings has been a major challenge in a small kitchen at the existing hall. Only two people can move around once the huge hot cabinet is in situ, it dominates the central space. Dirty plates and cutlery have to be stored in buckets in the corridor by the toilets until there is enough space to wash them up in the kitchen. A new and bigger kitchen will mean we can increase our audience and dining capacity for our events.

**Dedicated Parking:** Parking facilities for our audiences of eighty are woefully inadequate. We have to borrow parking space in a field, kindly loaned by one of the hall's neighbours and those who park there have to walk in the dark along the bumpy track to get back to their cars. Other kind neighbours allow us to park on their drive. It will be wonderful to have safe, dedicated, well-lit parking facilities.

**And Finally:** We are always looking for new members, directors and committee members, so if you would like to know more, watch out for events on the village website, The Parish Magazine or on the Facebook page for the Drama and Variety Club. If you would prefer to chat, call 01825 830857. Like many other village organisations, we have been unable to meet during lockdown. However, next year is the 40th Anniversary of the Hadlow Down Drama and Variety Club, so as soon as we are able to meet safely, we will be planning some celebratory events to help raise funds for the much needed, long-awaited New Village Hall.

We wish the New Village Hall committee every success with their fundraising activities and pledge our support for this challenge!  
**Sarah Prall**



## Short Mat Bowls has been played in East Sussex since the early 1980's and is a game which can be played by all ages

The game is generally played from September through to April inside on portable mats, so is not reliant on the weather. Games played are singles, pairs, triples and fours with the object being to outscore your opponents by getting your bowls (woods) closest to the jack.

**Janet Tourell is a playing member and spoke to Don Smith, Chairman - Hadlow Down, Short Mat Bowls Club**

When taking the position of Chairman of the Bowls Club in 2009, my main objective was to promote the image of the club and hopefully increase the membership which was low and insufficient for our commitment in the Wealden League. This was achieved through the three highly successful tournaments I organised between the 11 clubs in our Division and regular written Reports in the Parish Magazine and I can now honestly say this has been achieved for a limited 15 members and a really friendly atmosphere which is envied by most of the other League Clubs.

When the prospect of a new hall was mentioned to me in 2012, I was delighted to support the project as this will enable us to have three mats which several of our opponents have. This will ensure the continued success of the Club, with an increased guaranteed membership and become one of the most flourishing clubs in the area which I hoped to see in my lifetime. Thanks must be extended to Janet Tourell and Bob Lake who have worked exceptionally hard to gain planning permission for a facility the whole village will benefit from.  
**Don Smith**

## One of our aims is to ensure that the New Hall is accessible to all and to create a community hub that will support ongoing efforts to combat loneliness and social isolation

Our very own Bob and Nigel regularly head up to the Village Hall on Wednesday mornings to help the TN22 Clubs set up tables and chairs. We thought you might like to hear a little more about the brilliant work they do. Denise Leary tells us more

At Engage and The TN22 Clubs we provide lively and friendly social clubs to older people in the Wealden area (not just TN22)

- We hold the clubs in the village hall in Hadlow Down on a Wednesday.
- We rely on a large team of volunteers to work alongside our professional staff.
- We cook a 2-course nutritious and tasty lunch in the club kitchen.
- We are able to collect members from their homes if transport is needed.

**Which club suits you?**  
TN22 Club - Meet old and new friends in a happy

welcoming atmosphere. Our TN22 Club is a social lunch club for older folk and we offer a day filled with companionship and fun. Entertainment, activities and occasional outings ensure that a good time is had by all. We always encourage new members and if you are hesitant about coming along, you will be assured of a warm welcome.

**TN22 Plus Club** - A safe, sociable and stimulating day out for people with memory loss or mild to moderate dementia. We have a high ratio of staff and volunteers to members, with the emphasis on enjoyment and laughter. We ensure members have a positive experience with us and this also supports their relative/carer to have a break to do something they want to do.

**Travelling Tea Trays** - Tea and cake with others in your neighbourhood who also enjoy companionship and good conversation. We hold a number of coffee mornings in Hadlow Down, Buxted and Broad Oak/Heathfield.

**Volunteering with the TN22 Clubs**  
Our clubs rely on volunteers to make them happen. We are always looking for new volunteers to help out or drive members to and from the clubs. Many of our volunteers say they get as much as the members out of volunteering with us.

If you would like more information about any of our activities, please contact Denise Leary on: 07462 790210 or email: [daleary@btinternet.com](mailto:daleary@btinternet.com) You can find more information on our website at: [www.engagewealden.org.uk](http://www.engagewealden.org.uk)  
**Denise Leary**



# Hadlow Down Fundraising

## Fundraising to build the New Hall. We need your help!

The New Village Hall Committee has worked hard over the last few years to consult with you on what you would like your New Village Hall to provide. Thanks to your input we plan to build a community hub and sport's pavilion to enable us to offer fantastic new facilities for all existing community groups, sports clubs and private users. In addition we hope our new facilities will enable us to launch new activities in response to community consultation. We have agreed a design and crucially secured Planning Permission. Now we can begin our fundraising in earnest. But we need your help. Could you support us today to help build the New Village Hall for our Community. As a village hub the new hall provides facilities, services, activities and socialising space for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Since our inception in 2008 we have raised £79,000. All the work undertaken so far has been funded through grants and donations, no public money has been spent. We believe that we can fund 100% of our project through grants and donations.

We will be applying for major grant funding from large charities and Trusts but we will need to demonstrate we can raise funds here in our own Community. As a charity, with no ability to put on fundraising events in 2020 to generate income, due to Covid, the New Village Hall has been hit hard by the lockdown.

Now we need to ask for your help. We know this is a tough time but if you can, please donate now or become a Sponsor. With your help, we can build the New Village Hall for you - and everyone in our community to enjoy. Our current goal is to raise £10k towards paying for a Quantity Surveyor's report and detailed construction

drawings. Once we have these we can apply for major grant funding for larger specific elements of our build.

**Here's a few ways you can help**  
Donate now via JUST GIVING here you can either make a one off donation or set up a regular payment. Could you donate regularly as little as £2 per month via Just Giving? [www.justgiving.com/hadlowdown](http://www.justgiving.com/hadlowdown)

Host a Fundraising Event for us - there are more ideas and details on our website, but a bake sale, coffee morning or yard sale are great places to start.

Hold or take part in a sponsored Event. Take on a challenge for the New Village Hall and see what you can achieve! Whether you run, swim, or cycle, you can have fun and get fit while raising vital funds and awareness. Choose your event and get moving! You can choose us as your preferred charity for your next marathon/walk/dance-athon!

Hold a Birthday Fundraiser for us. All the details are on the Just Giving website, simply create the event and select Hadlow Down New Village Hall as the beneficiary. This is such a simple fundraiser, ask friends and family to donate to Hadlow Down New Village Hall instead of sending a card or gift. One of our Committee recently raised over £200 for us! Imagine if we could inspire 10 or 20 more Birthday fundraisers like this!

Become a Corporate Sponsor we are very interested in working with local businesses if you would like to talk to us about becoming a sponsor or helping us by donating professional services please contact Bob Lake 01825 830857.

We hope to put on our own fundraising events in the coming months as the pandemic restrictions ease, look out for details on our website and FB page. **THANK YOU, from us all FOR SUPPORTING US. THE NEW VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

again. We now have the cricket club: Hadlow Down and Moulsecomb Wanderers (HDMWCC) playing a full season of home matches (weather permitting). This coming football season, Crowborough Athletic FC will be using our pitch for regular U12 matches.

And of course for a long time, no fundraising events, no Pop-Ups, no fireworks.

Despite the lockdowns, the trustees and our valued helpers have been busy. A lot of work has been done maintaining and improving the cricket pitch. Contractors have been looking after the football pitch, including sand slotting, weed treatment and fertilising. The storage 'undercroft' under the pavilion gets very damp in the winter - not good for the expensive equipment stored there - so drainage work and damp proofing has recently been installed.

Despite the lack of fund-raising, every cloud has a silver lining and Covid relief for the leisure industry - and we pay business rates on the pavilion, so we are a "business" as well as a charity - brought us rates relief and a nice support grant from HM government. We have used this unexpected windfall in part to buy a new lawnmower for the cricket pitch. A top quality machine that also has attachments for scarifying and "verticutting" - a kind of grass treatment, I think.

We also have a new agreement with the Parish Council to help us fund the routine grass cutting. This is currently done by an outside contractor but we are looking at sources of funding in order to buy equipment so that we can take this "in house" which should be more flexible and save money in the long term.

To house this new and existing equipment in a secure and dry manner, we have bought a 20ft shipping container which will be painted a nice dark green and discreetly positioned. Unfortunately, after a lovely dry (if cold) April, with rock solid ground, the delivery did not arrive until May, when the ground was once again too soggy to place the container where we wanted it. So some later moving will be required!

Just recently, we have had our fund-raising Steam Rally "junk stall" that raised £550 and with any luck the Fireworks and Bonfire will be happening this November - traditionally a big fund-raiser for us

As always, we are looking for more help and especially some more (and younger) committee members to join us. See what's happening and contact us at [hdpf.uk](mailto:hdpf.uk)  
**John Thompson, Treasurer, Hadlow Down Playing Field, June 2021**



## Janet Tourell tells all about the Hadlow Down Community Centre Lottery Club

After the horrible Coronavirus year we've just had we need something to look forward to and we need your help!

We are now fund-raising in earnest for our new community centre (village hall and sports pavilion) on the Playing Field at the end of School Lane and members of the Hadlow Down Community Centre Lottery Club will play a huge

part. Many of you have recently renewed your numbers for this year, thank you from us all. Happily there are still plenty of numbers available for new entrants!

There are three draws annually: in the Spring at the Spring Market. The Summer draw usually takes place at the Village Fayre. This year we will draw the numbers at the Village AGM on 23rd July. The last draw for 2021 will be held at the Christmas market. Dates for this are to be confirmed, we will publish these on the calendar and on our website. Winners will be published on our website on the lottery page and contacted directly.

An annual ticket costs £12 and you can buy up to a maximum of 12 tickets. The jackpot is currently around £180 per draw and is increasing as we gain new members so well worth entering! We do ask that you renew your subscription annually, please check with me, Janet, if you think your membership has lapsed. To date our lottery has raised in excess of £10,000 thanks to you and your continued support.

**How Does It Work?**  
The prize money will be for 50% of the income for that 3rd of the year and this amount will be divided between 3 lucky winners (depending on the size of the membership at the time of the draw) and the number of lucky winners will be at

the discretion of the Hadlow Down Community Committee.

**The draw fund will be made up as follows:-**  
If we have 100 members the income for a 3rd of the year (4 months) will be £400  
50% will be used as the prize fund e.g. £200 split into three prizes, 50% will go to the HDCC Fund.

**The 1st prize will be £100  
The 2nd prize will be £75  
The 3rd prize will be £25**

You may buy more than one number but you will be asked to pay for 12 months in advance at £12 per number.

The more people who buy a subscription - the higher the prize money!

Entry rules and details of previous winners are available on our website.

If you would like to join the Lottery Club and contribute towards building our new and exciting centre please contact me, Janet Tourell, [jtourell@btinternet.com](mailto:jtourell@btinternet.com) and I will send you details, or take a look on the Hadlow Down website: [www.hadlowdown.com](http://www.hadlowdown.com) for more information about our project. Thank you from us all.  
**Janet Tourell**