

CLAYDON AND BARHAM VILLAGE HALL REPORT FOR BARHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING • Monday 16 May 2022

With its newly painted dial and backlight glass, the village hall clock presents a smart face to the High Street it has presided over for more than 100 years. Inside, the hall is also looking smart. The main hall floor has just been cleaned and oiled for a new generation of feet to enjoy.

The annual BMM pantomime - later than usual because of Covid - enjoyed the applause of nearly full houses over its six-night run. And other activities are beginning to fill the bookings calendar as people feel more comfortable about being with others inside the building. Dance classes are resuming on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and some Saturdays. Slimming World has held onto its Thursday slot when others have demurred. Bendy Beans enjoys good responses from mothers and their babies and there have been enquiries for children's parties, which is gratifying to see.

On the fabric of the building, we have just had a visit from Building Control at the County Council. Previously, concerns were voiced about the gaps between the rafters in the roof space. We have had metal stabilising bars fitted across these but Chris Hill from the council reported that the original wooden pegs are still holding well and that no remedial action is needed at this time. Gordon Musson, our Maintenance Officer, has been the main driver of these investigations and the works involved.

On Friday 13 May we have noticed dampness on areas of the inside front walls of the building in the committee room leading to the kitchen. Gordon will arrange for an inspection of the roof area to see if there is any leakage from above. We will also check the plumbing to the radiators in the room and investigate if there is any dampness rising into the wall from below. We believe in such an old building that there may not be a damp-proof course.

We have joined a Community Action Suffolk scheme called 'Your Hall' whereby village halls have an individual website presence in the 'cybersphere'. It's a way of advertising ourselves and our many attractions. We have yet to fill 'our online space' with text and pictures.

I have just sent an advert to appear in the next edition of the In Touch magazine. It highlights our search for a new book-keeper and bookings clerk to join our management team. Let's hope we get some encouraging replies.

I think that covers most things.

Geoff Rogers
Chair, Village Hall Management Committee
13 May 2022