

Silchester Village Hall

Happy New Year!

2010 was the year we consulted, planned and decided what we wanted to do to ensure the survival and development of the Village Hall as a focal point of our community.

2011 will be the year when our objective is to raise the finance. The building costs are projected at £200,000. Fittings, fees and 20% Vat mean we must aim for £400.000.

Public and other grants are stretched. Even after allowing for significant donations, I and a number of colleagues believe we can not proceed unless we raise half of this ourselves.

One option being considered is to apply for planning permission to build a house on the site next to the Hall. This would contribute significantly to our fundraising and make the target more achievable. Our architect has attended a pre-planning meeting with Basingstoke & Deane planning department and Silchester Parish Council has discussed permissions in principle. Our Parish council probably reflects village views reasonably well; some are in favour, others are not convinced.

Are there alternative ways of funding? We will look but I am not hopeful. By the time you read this we will have had the first of our grant meetings. If you are aware of other feasible grants sources please let us know. The Village Hall Trustees and Management Committee have to make a real decision on authorising more fees to prepare plans and further the cause and we need to be confident that sufficient funds can be raised.

If you are interested, look up our prospectus on our web site or ask Nicky Alcock to email it to you. [www.Silchestervillagehall.org.uk](http://www.Silchestervillagehall.org.uk)

I am still positive that we can build a Village Hall fit for the future, but delay is our enemy, the monetary climate might improve but only allied with the main enemy-inflation.

**Richard Cockroft Chairman, Village Hall Development Committee**

Decembers Bonus Ball Winner was Richard Rand who won £40.

Our next fundraising activities are **Bingo in the Village Hall** on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 1pm and the **Auction** on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February – please come along and support these events.

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