





## Hall improvements

The main hall has been completed at Eye and Dunsden Village Hall



The main hall being worked on



The patio and hall extension

Eye and Dunsden village hall near Henley on Thames is in the middle of a major improvement plan. The main hall has now been completed and will be used for Christmas events. The Palmer Room will be out of action until the end of January, while work is being completed.

The funding for the improvements was awarded by South Oxfordshire District Council and the Phillimore Charitable Trust. In addition, the hall committee and the community have managed to match the funding because of generous local donations and fundraising events.

Once work has been completed, the hall will have:

A new central entrance and foyer, new loos, a new kitchen, energy efficient heating with underfloor heating for the halls, double glazing, new and improved storage, an extension to the main hall which makes it possible to look out at the lovely views behind the hall and an extended patio area. There will also be solar panels on the roof. It will be a marvelous space to hire out in 2018!





### **Finstock's new extension**

Due to the demand of its growing number of users, Finstock community hall has found itself in need of extra storage space. The hall Trustees have been raising money to build a storage extension since 2016 and they have now received four grants towards this project. These have been awarded by the Pye Charitable Settlement, PF Charitable Trust,

Oxfordshire Community Foundation, and the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation. Individual donations have amounted to £1,344, all of which means that they can now start to build the extension in the spring.

### **Piddington country market is 5 years old**

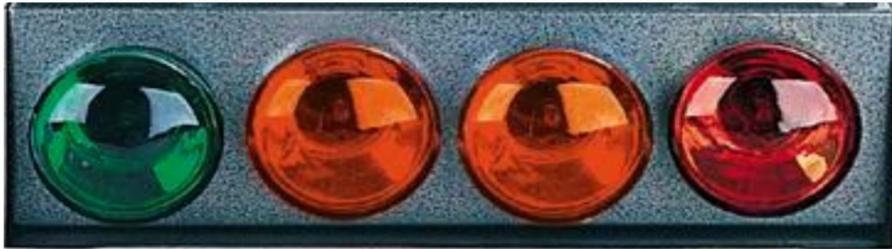


'The Pantry', Piddington's market, was set up in the community hall in 2012 after the village pub closed. The idea was to have a shop and a café in the village for local residents to be able to meet up with one another and do a bit of shopping.

The first market was held on 1st December that year and they have been held every three months since then. They have gone very well and just recently a five-year celebration was held to mark the achievement. Hazel Coleman, one of the organisers, said that the celebration was in praise of 'the determination of a small community to create and sustain a new village amenity in tough times'. So far, the venture has raised more than £10,000 through profits from the general store, a beer tent and a coffee shop, stall-holder fees, raffles and second-hand book sales.







You do not have to have a 'noise limiter' but some halls and community centres may find them useful if they are in very built-up areas. However, 'licensing authorities do try to avoid taking disproportionate measures that could deter events that are valuable to the community, such as live music. Noise limiters, for example, are expensive to purchase and install and are likely to be a considerable burden for smaller venues'.

To control the levels of noise emanating from your hall you can take simple measures, such as ensuring that doors and windows are kept closed after a particular time, discouraging people from going in and out too much, facing speakers inwards and mounting them on rubber mounts, installing acoustic curtains and reminding people to be quiet when they smoke outside and of course when they leave.

Further information on the revised guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003 can be found by clicking here **Revised guidance**.



### **Shutford's acoustic solution**

After the walls of the lovely new hall in Shutford had been plastered, it became clear that the room had an echo. After exploring a number of options, the management committee decided to install these circles made from fleece to their ceiling. I think you will agree they look very smart and also the acoustic problem has been solved.

### **Feedback from the Business Hub Survey**

Thank you to the 66 halls who replied to the survey about business hubs which was carried out by a team of student consultants from Oxford University, The survey explored the potential of establishing local business space in Oxfordshire community halls. A report has been provided along with recommendations. This will be sent to halls later this month.





## Community buildings local area meetings

In October, CFO held four local area meetings. These took place in Kennington, Shutford, North Leigh and Goring village halls. Over 30 people attended each event. During the events, we discussed fire risk assessments, including how and when to carry them out and the new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

laws and how they may affect community building committees. We also had the chance to network at the end of the sessions and many varied questions were raised.

A very big thank you goes out to all four halls for hosting the meetings and also to Pat Rosum, Fire Protection and Business Safety Technical Manager for the Oxford Fire and Rescue Service, who gave substance to the session on carrying out a fire risk assessment for halls.

Generally the feedback from attendees was good. Here are some of the comments.

'The meeting was extremely useful regarding the fire risk assessment'

'It is a good chance to hear information from specialist people and to network'

'An opportunity to discuss how other venues manage everyday issues'

Ideas for future meetings included, Trustees roles and responsibilities, how to use online booking systems, and how to employ someone to do odd jobs and cleaning. If you have any other ideas for next year's meetings then just get in touch.

## Village halls week 22-25th January

A new annual event has been launched by ACRE, CFO's umbrella organisation, to celebrate community halls and all the amazing activities that go on in them and also the people who run them. A Twitter feed has been created so that you can see what other areas are doing #VillageHallsWeek. I am looking at ideas for a coffee morning with an interesting speaker or two. I would like to hear from any hall trustees who have any vital services running from your hall, who would like to tell others about it or who have made the hall more energy efficient and would like to spread the word about how you did it. 22nd to 25th January is also Big Energy Saving week.



**Training and workshops**

# Quick Test

Safety with Simplicity

**I have booked 'Quick Test' to run another PAT testing workshop on  
Tuesday 16th January  
Yarnton Village Hall OX5 1TE**

The workshop will run from 9.30 until 12.30pm

There are a few spaces left, please email :

**tessa.hall@communityfirstoxon.org**

**or phone 01865 883488.**

The cost is £65 + VAT if you are affiliated to the community buildings advice service.

For non members its £85.00 + VAT

PAT Testing Equipment can be hired from CFO for £20.00 p/w.

For those attending the course a microPAT Package can be bought for a discounted  
£200+VAT from 'Quick Test' if you pre-order it on the day.

Comments from previous sessions:

“Excellent, well paced and presented ” West Oxon Hall

“Easy to understand and follow” City Hall

**OCVA**~Please click on this link for useful training from OCVA

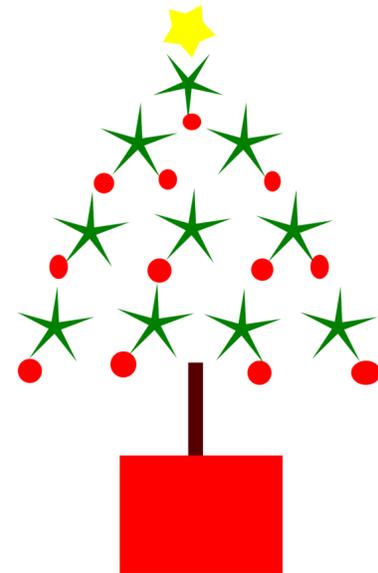
<https://ocva.org.uk/all-courses/>

## **Are you seeking volunteers?**

Oxfordshire Volunteers is a new volunteer website. It is run as a partnership between Oxfordshire's three Volunteer Centres. You can use the site if you wish to find a suitable volunteering opportunity for yourself, or if you are looking for volunteers. You could take the opportunity to advertise for more Trustees for your community building management team. Click **here** to go to the website.



I wish you all a very happy Christmas  
and I look forward to working with  
you in the new year!



CFO's Community Buildings Adviser, Tessa Hall, advises and supports Community Halls throughout the county. 01865 883488  
Tessa.hall@communityfirstoxon.org

Our Community Halls Advisory Service is supported by your hall being a member of the Community Hall's Advisory Service, and by grants from Cherwell District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and the Vale of the White Horse District Council.



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