

Good evening. My name is Andy Keeley and I am the Chair of Yarlinton village hall. A lot has happened in the past year. The hall has been closed for much of this year for the demolition and rebuilding the kitchen and toilet. The closure was frustrating as it was difficult to get precise start dates from the builders. In the end HHP did a superb job and I hope you have a chance to look around the extension. I'm pleased to say that all the building work is complete, the plumbing and electrics are finished, and the extension and hall have been decorated. There is a new fire alarm system. We are in the process of organising the new kitchen and equipment. As ever there are numerous small jobs still to be finished.

The patio oak frame is in place, and we are about to roof it over with clear sheeting and order two canvas sides as used in a marquee so the area can be used as an extension.

I'm pleased to say that we were successful within the last 12 months, in our application to the platinum jubilee fund and we were awarded a grant of £15,000. This was the final piece of the funding jigsaw and means we have just enough money to finish the project. It was scary to see how material costs increased over an 18-month period.

The official opening day for the hall will be on Friday June the 7th. The village will be invited together with friends of the village, funders, tradespeople the press and of course yourselves, to a lunchtime reception and cutting of the ribbon and even cake?. On Saturday morning Molly and Claire will be cooking a village breakfast. On the Sunday we are looking at a village lunch or possibly barbeque? The weekend will be the start of a sustained publicity drive. I hope you get fed up hearing about it.

We are using the hall for Friday night noggin and natter nights every other Friday. Everyone is welcome, bring a bottle and some nibbles. We have had 2 very successful evenings so far. The next one is on Friday 3rd May at 6.00pm. With the pub being closed it shows the value of YVH as a community meeting space.

In the course of the year, we had three resignations from the committee. I'd like to thank Gladys Bill, Peter Levold for their services. On a positive note, their places have been filled by new residents to the village.

Looking towards the coming year the committee have decided to become more proactive in putting on events and activities at the village hall to increase its use. Publicise the hall. We are looking to change our legal status to become an incorporated body. We are hoping to pass level 1 hallmark scheme. As the cost of energy increases, we will look into the viability of installing a PV system on our south facing roof and 2 ev charging points at the front.