



The Hindmarsh Hall Times

January 2021

Well, aren't we living in crazy times? We have missed out on so many things and it's been really sad that the Hindmarsh Hall hasn't been humming with all the usual activities. The Trustees are really looking forward to welcoming residents and visitors back as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, plenty has been going on in the Hall. Some groups have used the lower Hall and in the upper Hall a major refurbishment has begun. When finished, the Hall will be totally refreshed and upgraded for the 2020's. We are really excited at the prospect of reopening later this year with a community space we can all be proud of.



Artist's impression

A unique and special place

Not only is the Hall important in the village as the place where we meet for socials and group activities, it is a special and unique building. As many of you know it started life over 250 years ago as a Granary when Alnmouth was a busy harbour, trading grain along the coast and across the North Sea. The 1806 flood caused silting up of the harbour and trading ceased. So the redundant granary became the village's church with alterations by eminent Victorian architect Anthony Salvin. After the current church was built the Hall was purchased by the Hindmarsh family who gave it to the village in 1937. The Hindmarsh Hall is a Grade II listed building which adds to the complexities and cost of the renovation. For both its history and its architecture, it's a building worth taking pride in.



What's going on in the Hall?

We now have a project manager, Tom Batey, who lives in the village and has been helping to plan the works and find contractors for this major refurbishment of the Hindmarsh Hall. This is an enormous help to the Trustees who are extremely grateful to Tom.

In the upper Hall the stage was taken out last year and during the month ahead we shall start to see the windows and the stone surrounds repaired.

Preparations will be made for the new heating system. The floor will be lifted ready to install a new, level, wooden floor.



Where will the money come from?

The generosity of residents and other contributors to the Plank Fund will pay for the new floor. The Hall runs on money received from lettings so all other donations and grants will go entirely to the restoration. So far over £20,000

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has come from local donations and funders including NCC, Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, William Webster Charitable Trust, Fenwicks and the Barbour Foundation, and we are continuing to apply to other charitable funders.

If you know of any funds that we might apply to, or wish to donate, please let the Trustees know.

What can the Hall offer?

Lower Hall

This offers an intimate space with plenty of natural light. Being carpeted, the room is ideal for small groups and events as well as small private parties and meetings. It seats up to 45 people. This room is currently available for use, Covid restrictions allowing.

Upper Hall

When the major renovation of the Hall is completed this space will be spectacular, featuring a new dance floor. It can seat over 100 people around circular tables, leaving enough space for dancing. It is a wonderful venue for a wedding reception and there are kitchenette facilities on this floor too.

Kitchen

There is a fully fitted commercial kitchen perfect for catering for large numbers.

Accessible Facilities

The main entrance to the hall is wheelchair accessible and there is a lift to the main hall on the first floor. The accessible toilet has baby changing facilities.

Hiring charges are on our website.

When the world returns to 'normal'

When the day arrives that we are eagerly awaiting, when we can meet again safely and the building works are complete, we plan to restart as many of the regular activities as possible. We already have bookings for weddings and parties and are starting to look at holding coffee mornings, talks and film nights. The Hindmarsh Hall belongs to Alnmouth, it's here for all of us, visitors and residents alike.

It is our community space, not just a building.



Hindmarsh Hall AGM

There was no AGM in 2020 for Covid reasons but the Trustees give notice that they plan to hold an AGM by Zoom on February 16th at 7pm. A new body of Trustees must be elected or re-elected. All are welcome to join the meeting. Please email info@hindmarshhall.com for an agenda, to volunteer as a trustee or for a link to the meeting.



We would love to hear from you!

In 2017 we asked the village for ideas and suggestions and your feedback was really helpful. We have put a number of those ideas into practice.

Rather than include another questionnaire, we are simply asking if you would share your ideas of activities in the Hall, other means of fundraising or sources of grants, or indeed in which you could help us with your own skills. Perhaps you could become a Trustee?

Please write your ideas down on paper and post them in the box in the Post Office by February 12th. If you would like a response please add your contact details but these are not necessary otherwise. Thank you.

One last thing, if you don't live in Alnmouth but enjoy hearing updates from the Hall, have a look at our website or our Facebook page. Details overleaf.

This is what we are missing

Classes

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Pilates
Dance Fit
Dancing Girls
Barn Dances
Beach School
Explorer Scouts
Bridge
WI
Art Group

Events

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Guest Speakers
Wine and Cheese
Village Shows
Arts Festival
Food Festival
Produce Stall
Wool Fair
Craft Fair
Christmas Fair
Wedding Receptions
Coffee Mornings
Lunches
Poll Station
Shows
Parties
Business Meetings
Other Meetings and
Private Events

Contacts

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The Trustees

The hall is run by a group of trustees who work on an entirely voluntary basis.

Chair: Bill Bourne
01665 830 530
Vice- Chair: Hilda Blythe
01665 830 416
Treasurer: Judy Woodford
Secretary: Laura Gale
Bookings: Sally Wilson

Other Trustees:
Shian Hartshorn
Maureen Bickerdike
Elaine Stead
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