



ROCK VILLAGE HALL

ROCK VILLAGE HALL NEWSLETTER

September 2024/Issue 5

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Rock Village Hall Newsletter, thank you to those who have signed up to receive the newsletter and please continue to inform your neighbours and friends of how to sign up to the mailing list so we can continue to use it as a form of communication to the local community.

Email rvhcoordinators@gmail.com to join.

Rock Village Hall News.

Pond Improvements

On Saturday 8th June a team of volunteers led by Tom Dutson started work on the pond improvements. For a while now attempts to fix a leak in the pond have been unsuccessful – we have looked into many options of what to do with the pond and over all feedback was to make the pond smaller, in order to keep the pond as a feature of the hall. Tom put forward plans to make the pond smaller, reline the smaller pond with clay and fill in the other half of the pond and turn that into a garden area for the hall which, in time could be used by hirers. Due to the time restraints to complete this work we unfortunately had to cancel the Autumn live music and have rearranged this for 2025.

Work continued over a couple of weekends and overall, 200 tons of rubble and soil were used to fill in the left hand side of the pond and work was started on relining the pond. Fencing has been put up to separate the pond from the garden and to re-establish the public footpath which now goes behind the pond and a gate from the patio to the garden has been installed. The new garden area was seeded and quickly turned into a beautiful grassy garden! Plants and trees have been planted around the pond and along fence lines to add some colour. Once the garden is established and able to be used the gate will be unlocked. The initial pond improvements have made some changes with the bottom of the pond now being able to retain some water. Future work will include relining the sides of the pond to allow a higher water level.

A special thanks to Tom Dutson the mastermind of the whole operation, Alice Cutting, Len and Maureen Pitman, Matthew White, Emma, Oliver, Evie and Joseph Moore who have all volunteered to get this project started and finished in such a quick time! Thank you also to Agri Management Solutions (AMS) who kindly allowed the use of the digger and to Bullockhurst Farm for helping us move the soil. You can see some photos of the pond during the work and after on our website.



A Tribute to the late Keith Brown

We were all very saddened to hear of the passing of Keith Brown, Keith has been a part of the Rock community for many years before his recent move to Northumberland. Keith was a treasured member of the village hall committee, playing a vital part of running the village hall and he also organised and ran many quiz nights which were loved by all. Keith will be sadly missed by the Rock community, our thoughts are with his family at this sad time. A bench has been purchased in memory of Keith which has been placed on the village hall grounds for all to use and remember Keith.

What's Been On?

Community Coffee Morning.

On Saturday 8th June we held a grounds maintenance/gardening working party along side community coffee morning. The grounds were tidied up nicely thanks to all involved and pathways and steps are now once again clear. As a thank you from us, everyone who attended to help with the maintenance received a free bacon bap and hot drink. As well as making a fantastic job at the maintenance, we also managed to make £35 from the morning which will go towards the play area. A massive thank you to all those who supported us and to Steph for once again organising the coffee morning!

Community Coffee Morning

Community coffee morning was well attended on Saturday 13th July and we received lots of positive feedback regarding the new garden! A fantastic £82 was made at this coffee morning which will be put towards the children's playground improvements. Thanks to all who supported and once again thank you to Steph for running the morning and all who volunteered to help at the morning and donate cakes!

The Lemon Twists

Ticket sales were down for this event, however around 40 people turned up to enjoy a night with The Lemon Twists, enjoying music from the 60's and feedback from the evening was positive! We raised £61 which will go towards the children's playground improvements. Thank you to all those who supported the evening and to Fran Cratchley and Sue Hopkins for organising and running the evening.

Summer Bingo

Friday 12th July saw another busy bingo evening with 'Summer Bingo'. Some great prizes were won and most importantly – everyone had a fun night! A fantastic £187.20 was raised on the night which will be donated towards the children's play area. Thank you to Celia Smith. For being our bingo caller again and to Sue Hopkins for organising and running along with help from Fran Cratchley.

Table Top Sale

Sadly the table top sale was very poorly attended, a few bargains were grabbed at the beginning of the sale but customers were few and far between. A big thank you to those who purchased a table and supported the sale and to Sue Hopkins for organising!

Stevie Mac

After a slow sale of tickets on the two days before the ticket sales went up and on the night the evening was well supported. Everyone was up on the dance floor and all enjoyed the evening! We raised £138 towards the children's play area. Thanks to Fran for organising, Sue for helping on the evening and Tom and Alice for keeping everyone hydrated!

Rock Show

Rock Show went ahead on Saturday 31st August and was a brilliant day! We've had so many lovely messages and positive feedback and are happy to hear everyone had such a good day!

We had a mixed bag of weather but the rain stayed away which was fantastic! Everyone loved the animal man show and the pedal powered smoothies went down a treat - We loved the banana and tropical fruit smoothie! We had even more dogs enter for the fun dog show with lots of lovely winners! There was a lot of love for the tombola as usual, a fantastic variety of stalls to wonder round, the vintage vehicles were a great addition this year too! Archery and bouncy castles and trampolines seemed to be busy every time we looked - hopefully it helped some children sleep that night!

Food and drink were also well supported, with everyone enjoying the hot dogs & burgers from the bbq. Cobs, cake and hot drinks from the refreshments and obviously a few beers from the bar! Lastly, Len's Legendary Bric-a-Brac topped last years profits with lots of donations being received a great LAST EVER Bric-a-brac! Thank you to Len for holding this stall for over 40 years.. you certainly finished with a bang!

We are pleased to announce we topped last years profits and made an ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC £2629 which will all go towards our children's play area improvements!

We couldn't have done this without the support from everyone involved, a HUGE THANK YOU to:

- *Kudos Blends for sponsoring us £150
- * Lynn Morris for donating cakes for the refreshments stall
- * Every business who helped us by donating some fantastic raffle prizes
- * Steph for organising the refreshments and all who helped her in refreshments

What's been on? Continued..

- * All our fantastic volunteers for helping to set up and run the show and tidying up after - we really couldn't have run without each and every one of you!
- * All the stall holders who supported the show
- * Everyone who brought a vintage vehicle to display
- * And of course.. everyone who came and supported the day and spent the pennies to help us fundraise!

Unfortunately, we are still reliant on the same few volunteers to organise, set up and clear up after the show. This year we have seen a few more volunteers take on small parts of organising and some new faces help run stalls on the day and we are incredibly grateful for the help we have received as without their help the show wouldn't go on! We made the show bigger after receiving feedback that the community wanted more for children to do, however, the help received is not enough to allow us to continue with Rock Show as we have done the last 3 years. If you would like to take on a part and help with organising the show or can offer help for set up, running and clear up then please get in touch. We usually start preparations for the show in January and if we haven't gained enough volunteers by this point we will not be able to run Rock Show 2025. Please get in touch with Emma rvhcoordinators@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Future Events.

We are sorry, but we have had to cancel the 'Over 60's Afternoon Tea' and 'October's Community Coffee Morning' we are hoping to set new dates for these events over the next few months. Apologies to anyone planning to attend these events.

Mind Magician – Mentalist Show with Jay Adkins.

Saturday 19th October. Doors Open 7.30pm. Starts 8.00pm.

'Clever, intriguing, humorous and brilliant!' These are the words used to describe award winning mentalist and illusionists Jay Adkins as he leaves his audience mesmerized, engaged and amused with his naturally charming and entertaining style of stage mentalism, close up mind reading and delightful deception. Join us for a night of trickery, tickets are £8 each and available from Fran Cratchley 07527 541400, the Rock Cross Inn bar or via our website. Licensed bar available.

Children's Halloween Party

Saturday 26th October. 2.30pm – 4.30pm.

Our Rock Children's Halloween Party will be held on Saturday 26th October 2.30pm-4.30pm and is FREE to the children and grandchildren of Rock Parish. Get dressed up in your spookiest outfits – there will be a prize for best fancy dress! There will also be food, party games and activities from Rainbow Books and an opportunity to purchase a variety of books. Please book onto this party by texting Fran by 19th October 07527 541400.

Christmas Bingo

Friday 22nd November. Doors Open 7.30pm. Starts 8.00pm.

Dabbers at the ready for Christmas bingo night –there will be some great prizes available and a cash prize round! Light refreshments will be available at half time, but feel free to bring your own drinks and nibbles. No need to book... See you there! Prize donations greatly appreciate – please contact Sue Hopkins 01299 266390 or 07816 490400.

Christmas Fair

Saturday 23rd November. 11am – 3.00pm.

We will be holding our Christmas fair again this year for the 3rd year running! Come along to get into the Christmas spirit and make a start on your Christmas shopping with lots of local business and craft stalls selling a variety of gifts and items and food and drink stalls too! Entry is FREE. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Children's Christmas Party

Saturday 14th December 2.30pm – 5.30pm.

We will be holding our Children's Christmas party on Saturday 14th December and it is FREE for all children and grandchildren of Rock Parish. There will be entertainment, food and drinks and of course... a visit from Santa!! Please book onto this party by texting Fran by Saturday 7th December 07527 541400.

Playground Improvement Fundraising

We are continuing to fundraise for our playground improvements this year. To date we have raised a fantastic **£7737**. Any proceeds from community coffee morning and any other village hall events will be added to the fundraising total. We welcome children of the village to help us with our fundraising – whether that be a cake sale, car boot sale or sponsored walk - all efforts will get us to our target quicker!

Please see our 'Your Village Hall' noticeboard in the hall for monthly updates on fundraising and once we have some plans for the proposed improvements we will display them there. If you have any suggestions then please email rvhcoordinators@gmail.com. Once we have some plans drawn up we will set a date for a community consultation to discuss our ideas!

Volunteer of the Month

May – * Sue Hopkins *

Sue is a valued member of our community who's confidence in organising our community events has grown enormously since she started volunteering with us. Sue works hard to organise events for all ages of the community. Thank you Sue.

June - * Len Pitman *

Len is a big part of Rock Village Hall and has been for many years! He works hard all year round to keep the grounds maintained with a small team of workers. Len will always complete job required quickly and efficiently and is always happy to do so and is a valued member of our committee! Thank you Len.

July - * Tom Dutson *

Tom is one of the village hall's much needed volunteers! He helps with maintenance when required with his most recent offer of help being the biggest to date! Tom put suggestions forward for how to improve our pond area and then voluntarily worked long, hard hours with a small team of volunteers to transform the large leaking pond into a beautiful new pond and garden area – which we are so happy with. Thank you Tom.

August - * Richard Hall*

Richard has been a valued part of the Rock Village Hall Committee for many years! He has volunteered a lot of his time to fulfill the role of Committee Secretary and has done this very efficiently. Richard has also used his knowledge and expertise from his previous job as a civil engineer to help guide the management and maintenance of the hall over the years and we are very grateful for all of his support! Thank you Richard.

Committee Vacancies.

We are looking for individuals from the community to join the Village Hall volunteering community, whether this be as a 'Trustee, regular volunteer or occasional volunteer'. We also require someone to join the committee and take on the role of Chair Person. Filling these roles is vital in the continuation of the Village Hall, without the committee in place the village hall cannot stay open, filling these roles will ensure we can continue to support our local community for many years to come!

More details of volunteering with us and the vacancies can be found at the website www.rockvillagehall.co.uk under 'About' and 'Volunteering'.

To discuss further or let us know you are interested, please email rvhcoordinators@gmail.com or ring Emma on 07774 262988

Thank you!

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(Events advertising):
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Facebook – Weddings at Rock Village Hall:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091267029719>

Instagram – Rock Village Hall Weddings:
https://instagram.com/rock_village_hall_weddings?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

Have Your Say!

We welcome your views and suggestions for future events, improvements, what you'd like to see the village hall do next.. Please email any suggestions to rvhcoordinators@gmail.com

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