

# A grand (plus) start to our funds

**£1,450 pledged in opening month to help build Centre**

**S**ince our two extraordinary meetings in September this year, the committee has been working hard to inform various organisations of our aims and financial needs. The response so far, has been extremely encouraging.

We have now achieved over half of our build and decoration budget, with other applications in the pipeline and a promise that a further donation may be considered from one body that has already donated.

## More to follow?

However good the current total looks, **we need more**. The current build and decoration estimate we are working to is £2,383 and we'll have furniture on top! The Fete Committee have told us that they'll review their donation later in the year, once their annual accounts are worked out, with a view to possibly increasing it.

We have also applied to The Shrivenham Institute and once our society has approved a set of formal rules, we will be applying to the Co-op Community Dividend and the Vale's Community Grant Scheme.

*A run-down of organisations who have donated to the Centre:*

Shrivenham Parish Council . £300  
The News ..... £300  
The Village Fete Committee £250  
SAD Archive Group..... £250  
Local History Society ..... £350

**TOTAL ..... £1,4500**

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**Team work.** This photograph taken on 14 October shows the condition of a corner of our premises when we first took it over. Expect radical changes after tidy-up, cleaning, construction and decorating teams have all finished making this a practical environment to work in. More pictures to follow.

# Our Aims & Objectives

## Ideas for discussion and putting to the vote at the first AGM

- To collect, archive, preserve, display and make available, artefacts, images and documents (or facsimiles thereof), relating to the village and area of Shriftenham
- To research, record and present the lives and habitat of villagers and those outside the community of Shriftenham, past and present, who in their public or private lives have affected, or been affected by, the life of our village
- To provide a database of references, images, artefacts and documents
- To collect and provide a reference library
- To provide an environment conducive to private study
- To promote the security and accessibility of our collection with a view to reclaiming artefacts, images and documents that have left the village
- To record the memories of local (and ex-pat.) villagers (before it is too late!)
- To preserve records of the present for historians and researchers of the future
- To promote the aims of the Centre and a wider appreciation of our local heritage (in schools, societies etc.)
- To raise funds to help achieve our aims and objective

## The Society's Rules

**In order to comply with the regulations of various funding bodies, we are required to put in place a set of rules to which the whole society agree. You will find below a draft set of rules compiled by the committee to be discussed and voted upon at our first AGM. Please read these carefully and consider any additions or amendments you would like to air at the inaugural AGM for the society's approval.**

- The committee shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Infrastructure & Operations Officer, Archivist & Research Officer and a Programme & Events Secretary, each elected for a 12 month office by members of the society at the AGM. (*'members of the society' at the inaugural AGM has been determined by the committee voted into office at the 2nd inaugural EGM of 2007, as being anyone who attended the 2 EGMs.*)
- Membership of the society is at the discretion of the committee and subject to receipt of membership fees.
- Membership fees are to be determined, and reviewed, by the society's members at the AGM and will be due for payment within 7 days of said AGM. Members joining during the year are subject to a full annual fee unless there is 6 months or less remaining in the year of joining.
- It will be the duty of the committee to arrange meetings and inform all members of the dates. There will be an AGM held on or around 14th November each year to elect the committee, approve the membership fees for the forthcoming 12 months and conduct any other business of the society.
- Any member of the society can call an EGM by presenting the society's secretary with a petition signed by at least 7 paid-up members.
- The treasurer shall be responsible for receiving all monies due to the society, depositing and recording same and presenting the records in fit order, to the society's auditor for the society's annual audit. The treasurer will also be responsible for all the society's payments, the cheques for which are to be countersigned by the chairman and 1 other previously designated signatory.
- The rules of the society may be changed, or added to, at the society's AGM after prior notice to the membership of the details of any changes.
- Two copies of these rules will be given to each prospective member to sign as their acceptance of, and understanding of same. One set to be returned to committee.

# Outstanding committee posts

## Nominations welcome

**SECRETARY** The secretary will be required to take notes at meetings and provide minutes and help administrate the on-going work of the committee.

**ARCHIVIST & RESEARCH OFFICER(S)** This could eventually be two posts. Our archive will need to be arranged and catalogued with a view to possibly creating an on-line database. Future research needs will have to be addressed. Special storage needs and appropriate duplication of fragile items organised.

**PROGRAMME & EVENTS SECRETARY** To help future funding and to comply with our aim of opening up the archive to the public, we need someone to organise events (lectures, open days, stalls etc.)

## Membership fees For resolution at the first meeting

**At our first AGM, we will have to discuss and vote on the level of membership fee we are going to levy. As well as hearing people's views on the amount we are going to charge, there is also a need to hear what people think about more than one level of membership.**

A full member of the society has a commitment to our aims and objectives, has voting rights at meetings and would be expected/asked to help where possible and if available, with the various tasks involved in getting the Centre operational and running it, when open. If we are going to organise open days, exhibitions, lectures or similar functions, members would be asked to consider helping out by adding their names to the rotas and adding their expertise to the event.

Tony Jones has suggested that we might consider a second level of membership which has less commitment. This would include people who are sympathetic and interested in our aims and objectives but feel that they can't afford the time to be committed, however, would still like to be informed of events and progress, possibly with a view to becoming more involved at a later date.

We have to be aware that many clubs and societies start up with the best of intentions but eventually fail for one perfectly good reason or another. As a consequence, there will be those in the village who might hold back from joining us initially, to see how well we do and if we have prospects. The proof of the pudding will be if we:

- 1) open up a pleasant environment for the archive,
- 2) make it a welcoming place to conduct research, and
- 3) maintain an interesting programme of events.

*People like to be involved with success but we have to make it work first.*

## A little light work to start with

**As you will see from the photograph on the front cover, we have our work cut out to make our facility a good working environment. One of the first priorities was to provide more light.**

As well as needing light for our core business of archiving and display, the task force employed by Iain Winskill to build our facility, need more light than is currently available to construct the floor, wall, steps and door etc. needed.

Within days of our society being formalised, Terry Conner, the electrician responsible for supplying and connecting last year's Christmas lights in the high street, installed the striplights necessary. Work can now begin. The committee would like to extend the society's thanks to Terry for this speedy piece of very necessary work.

## Clean-up team

**Anyone who is not too handy with a hammer or saw and is wondering how they can get involved with the construction of our room, can sign up to help clean the area prior to work commencing.**

After years of apparent neglect, the balcony is in serious need of some TLC. Years of dust, cobwebs and dead flies need to be removed before the construction team can start work.

We are organising a working party to go into the hall sometime in November to work for 2-3 hours. Could anyone who can spare some time see me at the AGM so that I can put their names down.

*If you have any news or views you would like to include in the next issue of this newsletter, please e-mail us on: [davidboobyer@btinternet.com](mailto:davidboobyer@btinternet.com) or telephone (01793) 783098.*