



Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

About Upper Stour

**Serving the villages of
Bourton
Kilmington
Stourton
Zeals**



July & August 2020

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Parish website www.upperstour.co.uk

Facebook Group Parish of Upper Stour

***Enquiries regarding Baptisms/Christenings, Weddings and Funerals
to the Parish Office 01747 840 221***

~ ~ ~

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***Contributions for the September 2020 issue
should reach the Editor
by Friday 21st August 2020 at noon***

Mobile Library Times July & August 2020

July 2, 16, 30 Zeals	School	10.00-10.40 am
Aug 13, 27	43 Zeals Rise	10.45-11.05 am
July 2, 16, 30 Kilmington	Home Gd Club	11.25-11.35 am
Aug 13, 27		

Message from Rev Ben : A New Normal?

With schools having increased their capacity and nonessential shops beginning to reopen, it feels as though we are beginning to emerge into what has been described as the new normal! July seems to be the month where we will see more and more freedom, and I am sure we could all do with a little more of that. These months of restrictions have been odd and have proved to be testing times for those needing to shield, those living alone and for many others too. It has been a fascinating time to be the 'new vicar' of a parish and I can assure you that, even though our church buildings have been closed, more and more prayers have been said for the welfare of this parish as the months have rolled by. You will read in this magazine some glimmers of hope as we go forward. Some of our church buildings will begin to open, firstly with some supervised prayer times, which will then hopefully increase to more times, and require less supervision as time goes on. While normal Sunday services appear to be far off, we have certainly begun to prepare for this and will be ready for when Sunday worship is allowed.

I know that the Village Hubs have been well used during the lock down and on behalf of the Parish of Upper Stour, may I offer my sincere thanks to all those who have volunteered to help these importance centres providing help and support to many who have been isolated and in need. I understand that these hubs continue and of course, the details for these are available in previous magazines (old Parish Magazines can also be found on the Parish of Upper Stour Website).

As we go forward, the challenge of communities up and down the country is to continue in this community spirit, and as I said toward the beginning of the lock down, I am delighted to see how easily our four fantastic villages find this community spirit! I am so looking forward to village lunches and events coming back into the diary. However, for now we must continue with exploring other creative ways to be a community at this time, and I have no doubt that there will be many creative and safe ways in which we support one another and encourage each other to stay safe, sane and compassionate

You will see in this edition of the Magazine that I have started a Virtual Gardening Competition. Details can be found on page 13. However, it is worth pointing out that the deadline for entries is 24th July and the winning entry is a bottle of Bollinger – need I say more!?

As we continue to explore this brave new world, please do stay safe, sane and compassionate!

Ben

Rev Ben Rundell-Evans

St George's 100 Club

We caught up with all outstanding draws on the forecourt of Forge Garage early on 19 June 2020
.The following winners were picked:

April

1st Beryl Riches (31)

2nd Harry Bone (115)

May

1st Linda Curry (45)

2nd Bob Davies (83)

June

1st Sally Kennedy (12)

2nd Liz Flower (14)

July and August draws will be reported in September .

Ruth Burrows

01747 840371

St Martin's Millennium Club

June winners are

P Saunders

I Oldale

C Spencer

L Durrant

July draw on 9th July at
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Contact Nigel Blackmore

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Country Calendar : July 2020

*Harvest time crops are ripe,
This is the season of delights
Golden acres stretch far and wide,
Barley blows like a rippling tide. JP*

After months of rain we have had quite a run of dry amazing hot weather, the crops were starting to suffer from high temperatures and lack of water. Thankfully we have had a couple of days of unsettled and cooler weather which came just in time to replenish and refresh the crops. Harvest is the culmination of a year's work of neutering the crop. Recently we found vehicle wheel marks driven all over a field of barley this was caused by hare coursers. They had cut a lock and chain on the gates to gain access to the field to carry out their illicit and criminal activity of letting their dogs chase and catch the hares. Over the years we have seen an increase in numbers of hares and to us it is incredibly upsetting to know that during the night/early hours, these people have been on the farm to carry out an illegal activity and chase and catch our hares, not to mention the damage they had done to the field of barley.

Hare coursing involves poaching and trespassing, and it's aggravating and damaging to farmers — but it's very hard for us to prevent, because of the sort of men who do it. When one hare courser's home was raided recently, the police uncovered a stash of guns, ammunition and cannabis — as well as his coursing lurchers. These men come with muscle. Coursers often travel in convoy, with a car or van of 'minders' at the front and rear. Farmers who confront them get, at best, a barrage of abuse, but many have received death threats. Their barns and cars have been burnt down. Combatting hare coursing has been made a priority by rural policing strategists in recent years, to tackle the crime that breaks a host of laws, including animal welfare, criminal damage, violence, anti-social behaviour, threats to landowners and gambling. The practice involves dogs — usually greyhounds or lurchers — which are trained to chase, overtake and turn a hare that has been flushed out by a line of beaters. The highly lucrative events, which are often live-streamed, with thousands of pounds bet on the outcome, have strong links to the criminal underworld. Gangs launder money from other criminal activity through hare coursing, according to the Police's Rural Affairs Strategy 2018-2021. Hare coursing was the second most prevalent crime in the countryside

Three tips when reporting hare coursing:

- Do not approach hare coursers.
- Report any suspicious activity in the countryside to the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.
- Call 999 if you suspect a crime is taking place.

..../continued on page 7

I do have some sad news to report: Annie, my lovely mare, had a stillborn foal. Unfortunately the cord severed during birth and this was fatal. And even worse, we then lost Annie herself, due to an internal rupture caused by her slipping on wet grass, badly damaging her knee, with the further complications which proved fatal. I am desperately sad, and my only consolation is that we do have Albert, her first foal, who is now two years old and just as lovely as his mother.

I hope you all have a lovely summer and Covid 19 will soon be in the dim and distant past. Let us all hope for better times ahead.

Jane Parker



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Nominate your local unsung heroes and innovative local businesses within the parish communities for a Wiltshire Life Award

Over the past few months, we have seen heart-warming stories of unsung heroes – people and businesses that have gone the extra mile in these extraordinary times, or turned their businesses round to give help, support and protect their workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Why not nominate YOUR local heroes and businesses that have gone that extra mile and give them the recognition that they so deserve:

Check out <https://www.wiltshirelifeawards.co.uk/categories-2021> - it couldn't be easier to nominate someone and celebrate the achievements that we can be proud to be see in our community.



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The Ice Cream Parlour

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is really looking forward to welcoming its customers back. We will be open daily for **BBQs** and **Take Away**. Enjoy a pint, a burger or fish and chips in our stunning courtyard.

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Jolyon Waterfield

24th April 1933 – 12th June 2020

Jolyon Waterfield died suddenly on 12th June at his home in Zeals. The parish is in some disbelief as we all come to terms with the sadness of his departure from us.

As you would expect, Jol's life was varied, interesting and accomplished. He loved his time in the Royal Navy, where he was a proud submariner and captained two submarines. Subsequently he became headmaster of Edge Grove preparatory school near Watford in 1985, where he remained until his retirement in 1997

He and his wife Sally then moved to Row Farm in Zeals, where they enjoyed a very full life and made countless friends over the following years. Their house was a paradise of people and dogs and was a hub of hospitality for their many friends in Zeals and the wider parish and the wider world. Their parties were legendary and they were the very epicentre of friendship and festivity for all around them.

Everyone was greatly saddened by Sally's death in June 2016 after a period of illness, and Jol spoke movingly at her funeral about the importance of family and friends and the privilege of caring for someone who is unwell. Sally continues to be very much missed here in the parish.

Thereafter Jol continued with his active life and remained throughout an enormous contributor, both in the village and wider community, and also very much in the church community. He was involved in the activities of the Parish of Upper Stour from the beginning, serving as Churchwarden at St Martin's for almost two decades. He was on the Local Church Council of St Martin's for many years and also on the Parochial Church Council for even more years! He was a great contributor at meetings, delivering good advice and some pithy reactions from time to time. He was not keen on waffle nor grandstanding! He was also Chairman of the Almshouses Trustees for many years, and a Trustee of the Friends of St Martin's. He made great contributions in practical ways too, and was still mowing the grass in the churchyard the week before he died. .

Always wonderful company, Jol did so much for so many people, and was a true gentleman with a kind and generous heart, a brilliant sense of humour, and a great capacity for enjoyment - all in all a most special friend. We were blessed by his years with us and he will be very dearly missed

Celia Cotton

Jolyon's funeral will be a private, family only occasion; there will be a Memorial Service in due course, when circumstances permit.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP FROM JULY 2020

Churchwardens met with Rev Ben via Zoom on 10th June, when it was agreed that the aim would be to open our two largest churches (Bourton and Zeals) in the coming weeks for supervised private prayer. CWs also explored the possibility of restarting midweek morning prayer at Kilminster when restrictions allow. The CofE guidance is that private prayer in churches should always be supervised, and explicitly that churches are not open for tourists.

Before any of our churches are opened there will be detailed risk assessments in advance. Once these are completed and approved, the proposal for supervised private prayer times will start as follows:

Monday : St George's Bourton 2pm – 4pm

Wednesday : St Martin's Zeals 2pm – 4pm

These prayer times will not come into effect until we are comfortable that the suggestion is safe. The amount of supervision and the amount of time allowed is up for continual consideration.

St Peter's Stourton and St Mary's Kilminster will remain closed for the present, with the possibility of mid week Morning Prayer at St Mary's recommencing in due course, as mentioned above.

Reopening for Community Worship

Reopening for church services appears to be some way off, however, and after much discussion churchwardens agreed the principle of focusing on our larger churches (Bourton and Zeals) to enable greater social distancing and to share in the cleaning of these spaces.

Ben has reiterated that this guidance is permissive rather than prescriptive, and therefore many churches have chosen not to open yet. However he feels that in order to explore the new normal we wish to give people a chance begin to worship as a parish again and to have our churches back, even if in a small and very different way. Since the guidance from the CofE and from the Diocese is constantly changing, everyone is asked please not to hesitate to contact Ben if there are any queries or concerns.

Parish Office 01747 840221 // parishoffice@upperstour.co.uk

Virtual Garden Competition



During lockdown many of us have spent a long time in our gardens without being able to show them off! Now is the time to grab your camera and share your hard work.

All entries will be available to view on our website www.upperstour.co.uk/garden-competition and people will have the chance to vote for the garden in which they would most like to enjoy this bottle of Bolly (which is the First Prize)

This competition is open to absolutely anyone so please do encourage people to send in their virtual gardens! For those without computers – please get a friend to photograph your garden and send an entry on your behalf.

To Enter : send **by email** to the parish office
(parishoffice@upperstour.co.uk)
your full name //contact tel no // 4 good quality photos of your garden // donation of £10 towards church funds
(cash in sealed envelope with your name on it delivered to
The Rectory, Portnells Lane, Zeals BA12 6PG or to Zeals Garage)

To Vote : All entries will be available to view on our website –
www.upperstour.co.uk/garden-competition between 27th July - 7th August, each entry indicating the gardener's name and village.

There will be a simple online voting form.

Entries accepted up to 24th July

Voting 27th July - 7th August –

The winner will be announced on the website on 9th August

GOOD LUCK!

thank you
so much

Lockdown: Thank you to Everyone

The arrangements to help each other out during the lockdown are as listed in the last two editions of this magazine (May and June). If you would like a reminder, all details are on the parish website : www.upperstour.co.uk
Our four villages have been exceptionally caring and helpful over the past weeks, and very many thanks go to all those who have looked out for their neighbours and friends and helped out in so many ways. It has been a wonderful example of people and communities caring for each other and pulling together. Very many thanks to everyone.

From the Registers

Funerals

11th June 2020 at St Mary's Kilmington: **David Brearley**

17th June 2020 at Salisbury Crematorium: **Joan Rice**

26th June 202 at St Martin's Zeals: **Jolyon Waterfield**

A big Thank You

I am so indebted to our fantastic community since my incapacitating accident whilst out dog-walking on May 19th; it is impossible to mention all the individuals concerned but I guess by reading this note you will identify who I mean. Firstly Dr Neil Harding and support staff at Silton Surgery for their kindness and professionalism; the Bourton Hub, for collecting prescriptions & watering the front garden; Clare & family & Nick for back garden watering; to all the dog-walkers who turned up so promptly each morning, and the added extra when another emergency elsewhere meant another dog had to be accommodated; the car drivers for hospital appointment; and finally my wonderful neighbours who have done the shopping, opened cans, sliced fruit etc and of course the well wishers. I am now on the road to recovery. God bless you all.

Barbara Borwell

Future Church Fundraising

The parish is of course unclear about whether we will be able to hold our major Pop Up Café days at the end of October, but we are hoping we will at least be able to sell home made produce etc to the public then. In the event that we can, the PCC would be extremely grateful if kind people would remember us when you are making marmalade, jam, chutneys etc this summer, and perhaps let us have a few jars when the time comes. Thank you so much in advance - more information of course nearer the time.

Celia Cotton

Green Fingers: Notes from a Fair Weather Gardener July and August 2020

At this time of year we might all be thinking about taking a summer break, but this is definitely not the case with bugs in the garden. Our changeable British weather provides the perfect environment for a whole host of pests and diseases just waiting to attack our prized plants and produce. My garden seems to have been a magnet for aphids this year, with few ladybirds around to provide a natural defence. I have also had an influx of lily beetles. These are beautiful to look at with their bright red patent leather wings, but they can eat their way through lily plants, and in our case crown imperials, very quickly. And these are just the bugs I know about! Apparently, I should also be on the watch for capsid bugs on the fuchsias, phlox eelworm, woolly aphids and pear blister mites - but would I recognise them? This is without the complication of assorted types of rust and mould which can attack almost anything regardless of rain or shine. It's a relief to know that the green shield bugs that appear all over the garden are harmless to plants.

If the thought of all those bugs and diseases hasn't completely put you off gardening, July is a good time to plant autumn crocuses. They require very little attention and over time will naturalise in a dry sunny spot. You might also want to take cuttings of some of your favourite patio and container plants for next year.

Are you thinking about Christmas yet? Probably not, but August is a good time to plant indoor bulbs such as hyacinths and paperwhite daffodils to bloom in time for Christmas. They can be started off now in pots and left in a dark cool room or even a shed. Remember to water them and bring them indoors to a cool room when they have about 2.5cm or 1" growth. They should be bursting into bloom in time to enhance your Christmas decorations.

Finally, how do you fancy winning a bottle of champagne to enjoy in your own corner of paradise? Log on to the Upper Stour website: www.upperstour.co.uk to find out all about a virtual garden competition. The closing date is 24th July, so there is still time to beautify your patch and send in your entries.

Daphne Knott

(See also page 13 for details of the virtual garden competition)

Mere Literary Festival



The organisers of the Mere Literary Festival have very reluctantly had to cancel the Festival this year because of conditions imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic. The Festival will be back next year for sure!

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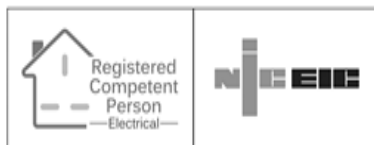
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News from Stourhead

National Trust

Stourhead is a place I have known in my life since my childhood. My mother visited here in 1981 and brought gifts to us back home in Cork. I truly discovered the garden during my studies in 1991, from the excitement I felt seeing the job advertised for Gardener/Arborist at Stourhead in 1995 to walking through the gates and starting work on the 12th February 1996 - all moments that have played their part in getting me to this point in my life. On the 12th August 2020 I will leave my role at Stourhead and soon after depart with Louise and Oisin (and the dog) to take charge of the gardens at Derreen near Kenmare on the west Coast of Ireland. We couldn't be more excited.

Although I will be leaving Stourhead I will never truly leave the place behind, I have spent half of my life here working in various roles and have never stopped learning about the place, its people and its importance in Garden History. My two older sons will forever associate Stourhead with their childhood and we will always bring Oisin back to the place where he spent the first 2½ years of his life. Stourhead has always been more than just a job to me - it's been my home, it's been my daily motivation, my teacher, my council and my pride and joy for many years. It's given us the confidence and courage to take this next step.

Louise and I have been chatting about what we will miss and mostly it's those simple connections that we've established over time that have made us feel part of something bigger. The incidental chat at the petrol station, the friends made while walking the dog, the casual wave of recognition on the airfield have all weaved us into the community over the years and it is this that we will miss. However, we are at the start of an exciting new chapter in our lives; the people, the place, its story and the opportunities that are ahead of us make this adventure the perfect page turner for us.

So, I don't want this to be a goodbye but more of a thank you from us to this wonderful community and an opportunity to wish you all the best for the future.

Alan Power
Garden and Estate Manager
Stourhead

News from Parish Councils

Bourton

As always, despite the lockdown, it has been very busy for Bourton Parish Council. We continue to hold very successful virtual meetings with all councillors being willing and able to attend. In May we held our Annual Parish Meeting; the Annual Meeting and also the Regular Meeting. Councillor Andrew Cattaway was unanimously re-elected as our Chairman, as was Councillor Peter Williams as our Vice-Chairman. It was a busy but constructive evening of meetings reviewing financial matters; documents and risk assessments. One of the latter was the Cemetery Inspections, which I undertook alongside Councillor Ian Cooper. This was carried out with care and respect, with the difficult but necessary choice of having to lay down some of the larger headstones for safety reasons. I now have the task of recording those gravestones and, where possible, informing the relatives. If anyone does have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, please do contact me.

Also during the meetings, a Compensation Basin Working Group (at Bourton Mill) was formed, with Louise Shepherd agreeing to be the Chairwoman, ably supported by Keith Hallett and Martyn Westwell. This group will provide the PC with regular updates at future meetings. Bernie Sullivan of the Bourton Wildlife and Footpath Group reported that members of the group were in receipt of a variety of trees all looking for homes within the parish. Bernie and Susie have also been very busy clearing many of the public rights of way in the parish, making those footpaths much easier to navigate.

Eve Wynn, Clerk

Kilmington

As the residents of Kilmington will probably already be aware, the defibrillator unit in the village has been out of order for quite a few weeks. It is now ten years old and would cost a disproportionate amount of money to repair. I am pleased to confirm the PC has agreed that a replacement unit can be purchased from Community Heartbeat on their "managed solutions package" which will allow a phased payment option with £575 payable now and the balance due in a year's time to allow for some fund raising. This has been possible with the help and efforts of Ian Cameron who is our volunteer co-ordinator for the unit and this is very much appreciated by the Parish Council. We are also grateful to the owner of Thenford, Mr Rupert Lund, who has agreed that the unit can continue to be housed on his front garden wall with the electric supply coming from his property. The Amenity Fund has kindly offered to donate £300 towards the new unit.

A virtual Parish Council meeting was held on 2 June using the Zoom internet conferencing platform and we were all very pleased at how well it worked out.

/continued on page 20

The draft minutes are now available to read on our website and on the notice board, as are the annual accounts for 2019-20, which were approved. No date or venue has yet been agreed for the next meeting but it is hoped that a normal meeting might be possible in September, possibly being held at Whitesheet School in Zeals. Full details will be published as and when anything is decided.

Ruth Burrows, Clerk

Stourton with Gasper

The Parish Council can report that we have written to the National Trust requesting commitment that the Light Festival will not be open on Christmas Eve allowing the parishioners unimpeded access to their Christmas Eve Carol Service. Also, we have requested that the High Street will be kept open at all times. These were the two main concerns that led to numerous complaints to the Parish Council. We are awaiting a response at the time of writing.

Due to Covid-19 the Parish Council remain unable to hold meetings but trust that as lockdown lifts, we will be able to host an extraordinary PC meeting for the annual accounts to be presented and approved. In line with government legislation and many other councils we will not be re-electing our officers this year and all committee members will remain in their positions until May 2021.

Fran Hill, Clerk

Zeals

As lockdown measures appear to be easing, the next public meeting of the Parish Council could be going ahead as per the normal schedule on the evening of Tuesday 21 of July in the Village Hall at 7pm. Should there have to be another cancellation, then details will be posted on our notice boards in good time. The principal item on the agenda is the checking of the Annual Governance and Accountability Review, before the completed document is despatched to the Government appointed auditors.

Councillors over the past few weeks have given their support to two planning applications: a conversion of an agricultural building at Lower Zeals Farm was fully supported, whilst a development within the grounds of Fountain Cottage was also supported but with certain, important conditions attached.

Now that the Parish Council is responsible for the facility, much work has been carried out at the playground recently. Its annual inspection did reveal that some more minor repairs were needed mainly due to normal wear and tear, and they have subsequently been completed. Some minor fixing of the chain-linking fencing was done. In addition, all of the play equipment has been given a coat of paint and the whole site is looking much more presentable.

On other matters, a replacement seat by the New Rectory on Portnells Lane is now in place. All of the allotments are occupied now (and they are all being very well looked after and are extremely productive), and a waiting list has been set up for next year. Please contact me if you are interested.

Graham Edgar, Clerk

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The Gillingham Foodbank has enjoyed yet another fabulous month of donations from our wonderful Upper Stour parish. From 19th May - 18th June a further £1,945 has been donated together with 170kg of food, enabling the foodbank to provide food for 128 local people for 3 days.

This means that from 1st April - 18th June, your generosity has made it possible for the foodbank to supply 605 local people in crisis with food for 3 days.

Thank you to all those who have supported us so generously.

This initiative will be ending shortly so if you have not already been able to contribute, please do so now, and drop any food donations off before 30th June and make any financial donations before the 18th July. Financial donations can be made through our website:

www.gillinghamfoodbank.org.uk and referenced "Stourton Parish".

This appeal started on 1st April and to date, our wonderful community has raised an astonishing £8,381. We would love to try and reach our target of £10,000 in the next month, so please, dig deep and help us do this.

The foodbank is a much needed and used lifeline resource for many local people in crisis.

Thank you all again for your continued support.

Regular Weekly Events

Weekdays	Preschool The ZAC (Zeals Afterschool Club)	08.45 – 15.15 at the Preschool Playing Fields, West Bourton (term time only) Daily 3.30 – 6 pm at Whitesheet School, Zeals. Contact Ross Coad 01747 841531
Tue	Pilates Tummies, Tiddlers & Toddlers	10 am – 11 am ZVH 1.30 – 3.00 pm at St. George's School Hall (term time only); entrance across the field.
Wed	Pilates Bell-ringing practice	9.15 – 10.15 a.m. ZVH 7.30-9.00 pm at St Martin's Zeals fortnightly. Beginners and lapsed ringers welcome.
Fri	Friday Fun Club Beavers Cubs Choir Practice	10 – 11.30 am (term time) Whitesheet School (Zeals) Hall 18.00-19.00 Bourton Village Hall Contact Anne Martin 07483 893006 anne.martin9@btinternet.com 19.15-20.45 Bourton Village Hall Contact George Cadnam on 07718 785738 / gcadders@hotmail.com Most Fridays (6-7pm) at St Martin's Zeals. New singers welcome. Contact Tom Wheare 01747 840 622

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Proposed refurbishment of Bourton Village Hall

Covid 19 has thrown up important issues for the Hall. It makes the economics of running a hall more uncertain. Will we want to use a Hall in which to meet as we used to? Will a more costly new hall be able to wash its face financially and, in any case, will funds and grants be available to build and equip one?

The Hall trustees have been advised that it will be extremely difficult to attract the funds to make any new hall happen to the necessary standard. Also, affordable housing, new technology workspaces and investment in the capacity and facilities of the school may well be seen to be higher priorities for the village community.

Notwithstanding these uncertainties, the Hall team is still determined to provide a 'greener', more modern amenity for our Community. Having sought professional advice on feasibility, costs and timings we now believe that the present hall with a secure long-term lease, suitably refurbished and with its predictable and low cost-base, is now our preferred way forward. The proposition is for a phased approach:

Phase 1

- We fix any serious threat of slippage of the bankside, underpin the meeting room and improve the way into the Hall from the car park as the new main entrance
- We create a second internal skin for the hall and create a lower ceiling to improve dramatically insulation for year-round use and re-decorate throughout
- We install efficient, flexible heating and air conditioning, lighting and electrics, possibly including a PV solar array on the south facing flat roof.
- We upgrade the loos with a new accessible toilet and an additional Ladies cubicle
- We modernise and re-equip the kitchen

Phase 2

- We install wi-fi, digital projector and new lighting/sound systems
- We buy a flexible/space-saving stage extension system

Phase 3

- We create a low-cost workspace instead of the shipping container
- We clear and resurface the car park

Now is the ideal time for action. It is likely we can get the funds for Phase 1 from the money already raised and the levy on the Mill site development. Phase 2 can come from further fundraising and perhaps some targeted grants. Community effort, know-how and resources can contribute directly to decorating and undertaking Phase 3.

Please let Paul Curry as the Hall's chair know your thoughts on npaulc1@outlook.com

Contributions for the September edition by *Friday 21st August*