

## Great Whittington Village Hall Newsletter: January 2022



**Happy New Year:** We are hoping that 2022 is a new beginning for us all.

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2022 is a year of **anniversaries** – we are seeking your input into how these should be celebrated.

### **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee:**

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee represents a wonderful opportunity for a celebration involving the entire Whittington Parish community. The Parish Council and the Great Whittington Village Hall (GWVH) committee have agreed to join forces to host an event on **Sunday 5th June**. We want to make this a truly memorable event and hope that everyone in the Parish will participate in one way or another.

We want to form a working group to receive your suggestions and ideas, to plan the specific details and secure funding from the County Council's Community Fund.

If you would like to be involved in the planning and organising of the food and/or entertainment or have any suggestions about the event, please get in touch. You can

- reply by email to [greatwhittingtonvhc@gmail.com](mailto:greatwhittingtonvhc@gmail.com)
- come along to the Village Hall on **Saturday 19th February between 10.00-12.15** - we value YOUR input in face to face conversation. Come for the morning or for a few minutes.
- pop a note in the Village Hall postbox
- leave your message on the Great Whittington Village Hall Facebook page

### **The Village Hall Golden Jubilee:**

2022 marks 50 years since the 'County Primary School, School Playground and Teacher's House with adjoining garden' was purchased for 'the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Whittington' - the registered charity was set up on 26th April 1972.

We already have received some ideas about how to mark this anniversary for the charity but hope that everyone will contribute to make this a special year.

**Oral History:** Perhaps because of our golden jubilee, we have been selected by Community Action Northumberland and Northumberland Archives as one of the communities to participate in an oral history project that they are running this year. The focus is on collecting histories of the village halls in the county. We are keen to talk to you about your memories of the hall – and, for those with longer memories, of when it was a school. And we are also interested to know if people have photographs we could share or other artefacts. We might have an exhibition/publication & celebration based on the histories we discover. What ideas do you have?

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## Films and things:

We now have a screen, projection facilities, hearing loop and licenses to enable screenings of films, live events and other cultural offerings after obtaining funding from the Council Community Chest to purchase audio visual equipment.

- Would you like to join a film club?
- What else would you like to see?

## Children and families:

We are setting up a Little Free Library in the Village Hall garden – a place where adults and children can gather and share books in an informal manner. We need ideas for decorating the Library boxes.

We want to really improve provision for families with children. The GWVH committee and the Parish Council have both agreed to commit resources to this. But we need you to provide ideas about what this could be - please come to a meeting to discuss at the Hall on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** (if you can't make this date there are other ways to be in touch)

## Other ideas:

The Hall is a resource for ALL the village/parish.

The committee does not need to organise all events in the hall – and nor should it.

We want to provide a hub for all ages and interests – please let us have your suggestions or, even better, volunteer to organise them.

Ideas that have been suggested include a wine appreciation group, a table tennis ladder, more Social evenings with talks, the GWVH community gardening group, cultural events, activity groups and craft clubs.

What we really want to know are your views. If you have ideas for activities or events just let us know and we can help to facilitate your ideas.

## Dates for your diary

1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of month	Fish and chip van [6.00pm – 9 p.m.] – the Hall and bar will be open so that you can wait inside/socialise.
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of month	Coffee morning [10.30-12.30]
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of month	Fish and chip van [4.30-6.00pm] – the Hall will be open so that you can wait inside/socialise.
8 <sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm	How to improve provision for <u>families with children</u> in the Parish – drop in to discuss your ideas.
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 10-12.15	<b>Drop in</b> to discuss <u>Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and any other ideas or suggestions you have. Come for the whole morning or just for 15 minutes!</u>
19 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm	<u>Rob Heron and Tom Cronin</u> – swing, blues, country etc. – from <u>Highlights</u> rural touring scheme [see Highlightsnorth.co.uk]
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Save the date for <u>Whittington Parish Jubilee celebrations</u>

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## Listening and working together

We have had correspondence from, and conversations with, villagers & heard two main messages:

- Some people feel that there are not enough activities in the hall for children and families.
- There are still scars from the difference of opinion in 2020/21 over the future of the hall.

As a committee we have tried to make events as inclusive as possible and most people who we have spoken with understand the efforts we have made. But, of course, we recognise this can always be better. We would really like two things:

1. Please consider getting involved either in the Village Hall Committee (our AGM will be in June and we would love to see people putting their names forward to serve on the committee) or in organising events etc.
2. Please share your ideas:

Either send them to our email address – [greatwhittingtonvhc@gmail.com](mailto:greatwhittingtonvhc@gmail.com)

Or put your ideas on paper and pop them into the Village Hall post-box (tear off below!)

Or use the message function on our Facebook page

Or face to face with other people at meetings planned on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> (7.30pm) & 19<sup>th</sup>(10.00am).

**In all cases** please let us know your preferred means of communication - Facebook/website/email/newsletter

**If you would like to join our email list,** let us have your email address which we will only use to contact you.

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For those who like to write – tear  
off and post here!



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**YOUR IDEAS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

