

Sarah Clarke – HHC update

We have completed 9 weddings successfully so far in 2018 and have 65 still to complete this year.

We currently have 48 confirmed weddings for 2019. The target for the end of May 2018 is 48 and therefore we hope to beat this figure. We also have 7 confirmed bookings for 2020 and 2 provisional bookings for 2021.

We have a wedding fayre booked on Sunday 20th May between 12pm and 3pm, a lot of interest has been generated on Facebook and we are looking forward to another busy day!

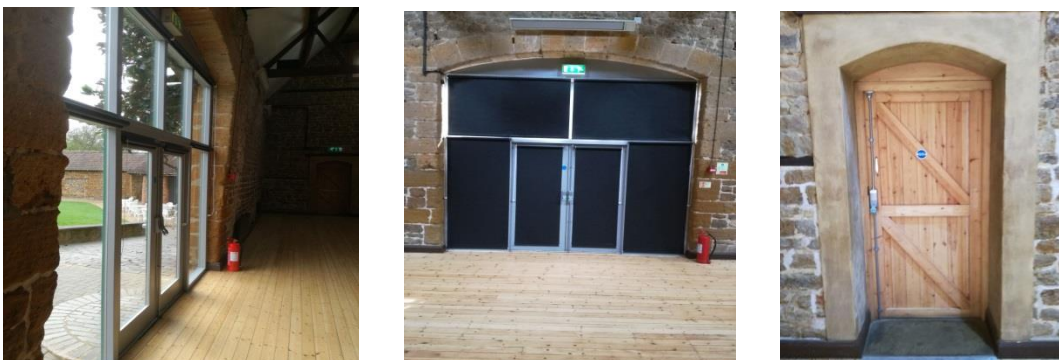
We have recently created new wedding, funeral reception and party leaflets; I have left some on the table for you to take a look at. If you would like some to take away with you, please let me know and I will arrange this for you today.

A lot of maintenance work has taken place recently, there a few examples below for you;

We have recently installed new lighting in the bar area;



James has renovated the high barn doors, fitted new fire door furniture and we have had some new blinds fitted;



Blinds have been fitted in the bar area to make this a more useable space in bad weather;



James and I painted the inside of the bar doors;



Also, in the last couple of weeks we have had our promotional banner reprinted in line with the new GDPR guidelines and our 2020 brochures have arrived!

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Frances Harris – Community Facilities Adviser May 2018

Village Hall Enquiries

Village hall enquiries are ongoing. Not surprisingly, data protection is a frequent query with the implementation of GDPR on the horizon.

Community Facilities Membership 2018/19

Community Facilities Membership forms have been amended so that they are now GDPR-compliant. Membership take-up for 2018/19 is encouraging. 80 of last year's 101 members have already renewed.

Networking Events

In January, I held the first Community Facilities networking event. Held to coincide with National ACRE's inaugural #VillageHallsWeek, the event (which included a presentation about how to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation), was well attended (30 members and non-members). In February, I held another networking event on the subject of getting ready for GDPR - this is an important (and complicated) issue for volunteers who run village halls. These events are a useful way of promoting Northamptonshire ACRE's village halls advisory service and the membership scheme.

Training

Rebecca and I held our third social media workshop on 19th April. Once again, attendance and feedback were good. I'm organising a second PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) Workshop this time taking place on 22 May. It will again be delivered by a professional PAT training company. Having found a playground inspection trainer, I'm now planning to organise playground inspection training to take place in the early autumn. As with the networking events, training provides a useful opportunity to promote the village halls advisory service and the membership scheme.

Newsletter

I'm currently working on a revamped and modern-looking Community Facilities Newsletter. It will be colourful, more attractively laid out and easier to read and it should serve as a better "advertisement" for the sort of help and advice Northamptonshire ACRE can give village halls and community buildings. The first issue of the revamped newsletter will go out this month.

National ACRE

In April, I attended National ACRE's training for the network's village halls advisers. This is an invaluable annual event. This year the training included fire safety, CIOs, governance structures, a Charity Commission-delivered update, and an overview of health and safety.

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Rebecca Breakwell – Rural Officer May 2018

Northamptonshire ACRE Best Village Competition 2018

The Best Village Competition judging is now in full swing and I am working with David in making sure all the necessary preparations are in place for the marks coming in, both in terms of village visits and IT judging, and for the Presentation Evening.

Good Neighbour Schemes

I am supporting more villages to get these schemes established – new interested villages are Blisworth, Cold Ashby and Gretton. The Moulton GN scheme has just celebrated it's first anniversary and the benefits are becoming apparent within the village. Having an established local scheme to showcase has provoked a number of villages to get in touch to learn more about them.

I am working very closely with Whittlebury Parish Council and Middleton Cheney Parish Council to get their Good Neighbour Schemes off the ground as these pilots are being funded by South Northants Council through Northamptonshire ACRE. I am currently drafting surveys for distribution in the respective villages to establish the need, look at what services would be used and enlist volunteers.

South Northants Health and Wellbeing Directory

As I think trustees are aware, South Northants Council commissioned NACRE to collate information on all South Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Groups in order to produce a Directory and online interactive map. I am currently busy collecting the information – it does

entail writing to each contact asking a series of questions e.g. cost per session, no. of current participants, postal address, etc. All the information has to be inputted and passed to SNC by 30th May 2018. If any of the trustees living in the South Northants area have any knowledge of any groups please can they let me know just in case it has escaped my radar.

Rural Wellbeing Service

I have covered some of the days on the RIC and visited Gretton, Middleton Cheney and Culworth. I did a session for Oundle Library's Silver Week as regards signposting older people towards relevant services.

Village Design Statements and Neighbourhood Planning

The Stowe Nine Churches Village Design Statement has now been drafted & I helped them with various sections of this. I continue to promote Neighbourhood Plans, especially in light of NCC being in a state of flux and the prospect of two unitary authorities in Northamptonshire, and disseminate as much information as I can about the benefits of doing a Plan. I think once the dust has settled as regards NCC then parishes will come back to thinking about making or reviewing a Plan as they may feel that middle layer of protection and knowledge of their area has disappeared.

Events

I assisted Frances with her Social Media Workshop and attended the NACRE Village Hall's Networking event on GDPR which was very much appreciated by attendees.

I attended the Moulton Health and Wellbeing Saturday afternoon a couple of weeks ago to promote NACRE generally. It was very well attended and generated a lot of interest in what NACRE can offer.

Forthcoming events

We are scheduling a Good Neighbour Scheme Annual event on 5th September 2018 to bring together volunteers from the various county village schemes to share expertise and hear relevant speakers. We ran a similar event last November which was very well received. On 11th September 2018 ACRE is organising a Community Led Planning Conference at Sleaford & NACRE can invite a number of delegates to attend. ACRE is paying each county ACRE within a region to invite a number of interested delegates be they RHAs, developers, Councillors, agents or landowners.

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Dawn Howard – Rural Wellbeing Fieldworker

- The information bus has started again on the 3rd April covering Daventry and South Northants. - Weedon Bec, Braunston, Whittlebury, Silverstone, Potterspury, Kings Sutton, Evenley, Culworth & Middleton Cheney. Going well so far – South Northants Parish Councils getting behind service & have spent lots of time advertising/liasing with parish councils in preparation of RIC diary.

- The RWS has taken on another Good Neighbour Volunteer in Finedon (Audrey Ellis)– Covering Finedon and Burton Latimer. But one in Corby has had to drop out due to time commitments. Audrey is keen to hold surgeries in Finedon & Burton Latimer and has a background in social care.
- RIC is booked on Tuesdays until end of November when contract ends.
- The RIC will attend festivals, fetes, etc. during the summer months. – Blisworth Canal Festival Booked with RIC on the 18th August, and will attend Good Neighbour villages to support their work.
- Library surgeries booked once a month until end of November in Earls Barton and Oundle Library. More pop up surgeries to book.
- Extra RIC visits - Brixworth Country Park booked 17th July and 14th August 10-2pm – process of arranging Fermyn woods country park on 10/7 & 7/8
- New fieldworkers to start. Working with them throughout June – showing them the ropes.
- Revising documents for GDPR deadline with Frances.
- In Preparation of new bid I am also looking into new Ideas for continuation of the Rural Wellbeing Service.
- My last day is 28th June 2018.