

Hartshill Appeal Newsletter No 2

A very big thank you Friends! We have received, to date, 140 separate contributions, without including any of the grants for which we applied. That has provided over £11,000. We are very appreciative of the contributions that we have received. It has helped us plan and implement our refurbishment and development work.

The high windows to the meeting house are now completed and so has the flat roof.



The roof people started work on week beginning Monday 15 April. They had expected the work to take four days but it took a bit longer – you will recall the record breaking rain that fell over that period. The flat roof surface is now 150mm higher! It was good to know that they did not find any evidence of internal structural damage from the water that had been getting in over the years. We had been quite worried that we may have had to face up to an unexpected expense as this problem would only be visible when the roof was opened up. This refurbishment will give us a lot of insulation and hopefully stop the roof leaks that have been haunting us for years.

Just as the window people arrived to do their work (see newsletter No 1) our boiler broke down – well it developed a leak so unfortunately that needed urgent attention. Fortunately as the boiler was relatively new it was covered by the installation warranty! That you will appreciate was a great relief.



We now have received official planning approval for some of our other improvements. These include the disabled toilet with shower facilities, we plan to convert the men's toilet into a fully accessible one and fit in another one into what was a cloak room. In order to improve accessibility to all the building the front entrance door will be moved forward to give a 'porch' and this will permit easy access to the downstairs school rooms. Currently there is a rather narrow not wheel chair friendly door way. This does mean that we have to tackle the replacement of the glazing of the school room passage.

The main foyer windows at the front and side which are large areas of glass may have to remain single glazed for a little longer.

Our wardens, who have been with us for five years, left in mid May and so we now have to redecorate the flat and do some refurbishment to make it suitable for letting to new wardens in the autumn. We have already added cavity wall insulation as well as fitting double glazing. We are currently collecting 'expressions of interest'. So if you want to be our next warden and help develop this expanding and enthusiastic meeting please contact us and we will send you details when we advertise later in the year.

Our heritage display is progressing and the costume of 'Nathaniel Newton', a local contemporary of George Fox is now part made. This will be modelled by a local Friend role playing when guiding walks and talking to groups.

May 2012