

CASE STUDY:

CUMMERSDALE VILLAGE HALL A NEW ROOF AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS

The parish of Cummersdale lies just outside the south west boundary of Carlisle, taking in Newby West and Garden village on the Wigton Road. The parish consists of 200 houses with a population of 500. The principal employers are Pirelli and Stead McAlpin.

Background

The hall was built in 1893 as a bacon curing factory which fell into disuse after the First World War.

It was bought by E W Stead of Stead McAlpins cloth printers in 1924. He gave it in trust to the village to be used as, to quote the trust deed, a village hall, billiard room, concert room, reading room and recreation room.

With a grant the hall was refurbished, mainly by ex-servicemen, who worked for nothing and brought the hall into good repair.

The following decades saw the hall fully utilised and at the heart of the community.

By 2005 the upkeep of the hall was becoming a problem. A steering committee was formed to discuss the provision of community space in Cummersdale. The committee considered the provision of a new purpose built hall or a refurbishment of the existing.

After public consultation, followed by a professional feasibility study, it was decided to refurbish and re-launch the existing facility, incorporating the project into our Parish Council's community plan.

A village hall committee was formed in 2009 to assist the trustees.

The Project

The roof consists of three gables and two valley gutters. Water ingress was a constant problem.

Prior to any internal improvements it was decided to completely strip the roof.

Quotes were taken and although it was felt that the lowest at £18,000 was very reasonable it was still a large sum of money.

At the time we were fortunate that Cumbria Waste Management were providing generous funding and a grant of £8,000 was made which kick started the funding. The committee organised many fundraising events and with help from the Cumbria Community Foundation, The Hadfield Trust, Carlisle City and Cumbria County Council the target was reached.

What Has Been Achieved

To date over £50,000 has been raised to improve the hall which includes new disabled toilets and access, refurbishing ladies and gents toilets, new windows, new boiler, additional heating and the provision of a new separate meeting room.

The Learning

To keep this asset viable we realised that community engagement was paramount. The much improved and marketed hall facilities are now being used by individuals and groups from within and without the village.

As far as fundraising is concerned we have always tried to include an element of match funding when approaching funders for help. Our own fundraising also helps involve the community.

The main lesson is to keep the momentum going slowly forward and keep chipping away. As with any old building there is always something needs to be done which can improve the facility. Currently we are raising funds to replace the kitchen.

Contact David Lowe
 Cummersdale House
 Cummersdale
 Carlisle
 CA2 6BH

01228 531449
07860 497 687

Email del@carlislerefrigeration.co.uk

Trustee and Village Hall Secretary/Treasurer









YE OLDE VILLAGE HALL
EMBASSY BALLROOM



