

Hebden Bridge Community Association NEWSLETTER MAR 2010



Members' celebratory meeting set for Thurs April 15th

We are inviting all our members and Friends of the Town Hall to a special members' meeting, at 7.30pm on Thurs April 15th in – where else? – Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

This will be an opportunity to celebrate the fact that the Town Hall has passed back into local control. The transfer from Calderdale is scheduled to take place on April 1st (no kidding!). The Community Association will take on responsibility (through a 40-year leasehold ownership arrangement) for looking after and managing the building. Calderdale will continue to use the building, in future as a tenant of the Association to which it will be paying rent.

We want to let you know what is happening, and what our plans are. We also want as part of the evening to hold a very short Special General Meeting, to make a change to our legal constitution (see formal notice enclosed).

Please join us if you can (and toast the future success of the Town Hall under community control!) It would help us if you could return the proxy form if you are not planning to attend. (There is apparently a chance that this evening could be the first TV debate between party leaders; if so, we will try to make the meeting finish in time for those who want to watch.)

Could you be our next Treasurer?

We've been sorry to lose Derrick Palmer, one of our founding trustees, who has had to give up the post of Treasurer due to work commitments in London. We are now looking for someone to take over and to join us on the board of trustees. But we have a problem! - so far no one has come forward....

Please think whether you're the person we need, or whether you know someone who is. We can't believe there's no-one in Hebden with the financial skills and inclination to get involved in the Town Hall project in this way. Please contact our chair Peter Hirst, on Hebden Bridge 842551. Please don't feel shy!

Room bookings now being taken

We are now taking bookings for rooms in the Town Hall. We can offer the Meeting Room, which is ideal for meetings of between 2 and 20 people; it is set out in Board room style, round the original committee room table. The Council Chamber, a stunning wood-panelled room, is also available for hire; holds about thirty. Finally, we will be calling in the builders in April to refurbish empty downstairs offices to create a new Waterfront Hall; this will hold up to about 120.

You can book by calling Sue Fenton on 0845 250 0532. Hourly rates are £12 (meeting room), £25 (chamber), £20 (Waterfront), with discounts for voluntary groups.

Friends top 500

We now have well over 500 Friends of the Town Hall, but are still keen to build support and our membership base. We have a new membership leaflet available. If you can help us grow by persuading friends or family to sign up, please do so.

The call is out for volunteers

We are now actively looking for a band of volunteer stewards who are willing to act as stewards in the Town Hall during the evenings, welcoming users, putting the kettle on, and so on. We would ideally like people who could volunteer once every fortnight to help in this way. This is a chance for you to help the Town Hall project in a practical way (and you will have time to read, study, do the crossword, knit, or work on your laptop whilst you're there). Again, Sue Fenton is the person to contact; 0845 250 0532.

Our 2009-2010 annual report is out now

Our Annual Report is now at the printers and (thanks to designer Mike Barrett of Frogs design) is, we think, a rather scrumptious document. Because of costs, we will print only 300 copies in paper form, but the PDF is on our website, and we really hope that all members and Friends will download it. Find it at www.hebdenbridgetownhall.org.uk/annreport.pdf

Spring-cleaning time

We are planning several major cleaning, decorating and tidying sessions, to give the building a proper spruce up. Thank you to the Rotary Club of HB and to Sweet & Maxwell who have already offered to help. If you can help too, please let Sue Fenton know (phone as above).

New Project Worker in post shortly

We have had a very good response for the post of part-time Project Worker we advertised recently. If you have applied, thank you very much for your interest. The closing date has now passed, and we have a very strong field of candidates. Shortlisting and interviews will be taking place shortly, and we hope to have our new worker in post very shortly.

We're delighted too that the Town Hall's existing caretaker and cleaner Beverley Wood is coming across into our employment from Calderdale. Welcome, Bev.

Wedding licence applied for

We have sent Calderdale a cheque for £1065 (!), to enable the Town Hall to become a venue for marriage and civil partnership ceremonies. We hope to have the licence very soon.

Funding bids update

We are continuing to work hard on the two major funding applications we are progressing, to enable us to build new facilities at the rear of the Town Hall. We are also delighted to be able to report that we have been awarded a £75,000 grant from Community Builders and a £10,000 grant from ERDF Access fund, to enable us to fund the detailed feasibility work needed up to RIBA Stage D (planning).

This means that our architects Bauman Lyons are actively working on designs for the new buildings. We had a great response to our consultation day in February, and will be holding another one very shortly. (In the meantime, you can give us your views on the particular issue of carparking via an online survey on our website).

Keeping in touch

We are trying to make sure that everyone in Hebden Bridge knows what we're planning, and the progress we're making. You can read our trustee minutes on our website, and also catch up with our diary. It's all at www.hebdenbridgetownhall.org.uk.