

THE NEW BEACONSFELD HALL UPDATE

The construction of the new hall has been taking place for five months now and it is at last beginning to look like a village hall and not a Dutch barn. Unfortunately the weather has not been kind and progress has been slower than predicted. The completion date of end of March 1998 now seems unrealistic but the committee are hopeful that by the middle of April the builders will have finished and the final touches can be made and the furniture installed.

The weekend of 16/17 May has been booked as an "Open Weekend" when the hall will be on show with demonstrations of some of the activities that will be taking place in it. The official opening will be in the middle of July but everyone in the parish will receive official notification of these events as soon as the builders have completed.

For bookings or queries about bookings please telephone Gill Drew on 01993 830398.

John Hartley, Chairman

FIFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Early in December we held a Wine and Cheese Evening for which Guthrie Piggot and Martin White devised an excellent presentation which outlined the progress of our History Project. Guthrie built up the story of the men who held the Lordship of Fifield in the years immediately after the Conquest and his text was illustrated by pictures, charts and other relevant background material which Martin had scanned into his computer. Laurie White outlined some more recent changes in the village and Pat Yaxley had some information about the history of St. John's church. There is still much to be done to complete the picture and any input – advice on source material, photographs or anecdotes would all be most welcome.

The year ended with our Carol Evening when our tiny Village Hall nearly burst at the seams! We all sang lustily – if not always tunefully – and the mulled wine and mince pies, as someone said, "went down a treat". Many thanks to Jean and Tony Rose for the music.

We should like to thank everyone who has supported Village Hall projects during the year especially our Trustees. The programme for 1998 will be ready soon; meanwhile we wish you all a very happy, prosperous and peaceful new year.

Pat Yaxley