

Debden Village Hall Trust

Annual Assembly Report for 2021

My name is Richard Cawte and I am a Trustee of Debden Village Hall Trust.

The knock-on effects of the Corona Virus pandemic have been acutely felt in the bookings of this memorial hall during this last year and the lack of funding opportunities.

The New Hall project is still ongoing, working with our colleagues at the Parish Council, Recreation Ground Trust and various villagers with specialist skills to make sure we get a new memorial hall for the benefit of all. The receipt of tenders from 4 builders for the new hall were far higher than predicted. This is partly due to the rapid increase of material costs and the extra costs for mechanical ventilation requirements caused by the pandemic. The project group along with all our professional advisers are looking at value engineering to bring the cost down to an acceptable level.

Correspondence between Uttlesford District Council, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust with reference to the generous grant of £236,400 given to the village in 2015 has been on going, following legal advice we have returned just under £193,000. The remainder of the grant was already committed and accepted by the AFCFT as legitimate expense which has been fully documented for the AFCFT. Thanks, must be given for the help from both our District Councillor and the head of UDC.

At present there are only 4 Trustees of the VHT and a management committee drawn from some of our regular user groups.

I would like to mention the hundreds of volunteer hours that the Trustees have put in, to keep the Village Memorial Hall going during these difficult times, also to thank all the members of the project group who have given of their time to try to get a new memorial hall built for the benefit of all in our community.

Without volunteers lots of local facilities will not be available to our community, so if you have any time to spare, please get in touch as soon as possible. The Village Hall Trust are looking for Trustees and a treasurer. Once lost, a lot of clubs, societies and village facilities are gone forever.

Debden Branch of the Royal British Legion are also looking for a treasurer and secretary.

Next year neither organisation will exist without your support.

Thank you.

Friends of Debden School (FODS) Update

FODS is thriving at Debden School with regular movie nights, an annual disco, a quiz night, cake sales and so on.

The school is rapidly expanding due to its good reputation and some year groups in Saffron Walden being full. Our classes are much larger than they have been in recent years and so we are needing to buy more stationery, computers and so on.

What we are raising money for?

Currently we are part-way through a library refurbishment. It has been redecorated and we are purchasing new shelving and comfortable seating.

We are planning to buy more tablet computers as we have larger classes and would like to have less sharing between children.

The reception playground at the front of the school is planning a refurbishment and we are hoping to buy a wooden wendy house.

Our play equipment at the back of the school is due for replacement and this is going to be a large expense so we are saving up for this. The wooden trim trail needs more and more annual maintenance.

Upcoming Events Open to the Community

Bag2School - Friday 27th May.

FODS have organised a clothing & shoe collection with Bag2School on Friday 27 May. Bag2School collect good quality textile items for reuse and then give a payment to FODS based on the weight.

Bags need to be at school by 9am that day. Please leave your bags under the red gazebo that we will put up at the front of the school earlier in the week or leave at the school office. Items that Bag2School accept are shoes (tied together please), clothing, belts, handbags, jewellery, household linen, curtains, bed linen, towels and soft toys.

They don't accept duvets and pillows and school uniform. School uniform can be donated to FODS for their second-hand uniform bank at any time. There is a full list here <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

Jubilee Saturday

We are organising Jubilee themed crafts and a bouncy castle at the marquee on the recreation ground on the afternoon of Saturday 4th June, 1.30-4.30pm

We will have tea, coffee and cake so come along even if you don't bring children.

DebFest

On Friday 1st July 4-8.30pm, we are holding a festival in the school grounds. This is free and open to everyone. We are actively encouraging Debden to attend and it will be advertised in the Pump. There will be an Ed Sheeran tribute act, BBQ, Licensed Bar, Inflatables, Festival glitter makeup and an amazing raffle.

Facebook @friendsofdebdenschool Email fods@debden.essex.sch.uk

How can the community help?

- Support Bag2School Friday 27th May
- Come along to Jubilee Saturday on the recreation ground.
- Come along to DebFest Friday 1st July
- Donations of children's books can be dropped off at the school office and will be used in the school library.
- Volunteer readers are welcome in the classrooms. DBS check required.
- Volunteer librarians on weekday lunchtimes 12.15-1pm are welcome so we can open the library up at lunchtime to the children. DBS check required.

DEBFEST

FODS FUNDRAISER FOR OUR NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

SAVE THE DATE!!!

4PM - 8.30PM, FRIDAY 1 JULY

CLASS PERFORMANCES

ED SHEERAN TRIBUTE & LOCAL BAND

INFLATABLES, NERF BATTLE & BEAT THE GOALIE

FACE PAINTING & FESTIVAL GLITTER PARLOUR

BBQ, ICE CREAM, SWEET STATION & BAR

**£5 - PRE BOOKED INFLATABLES WRISTBAND
INCLUDES FREE 1ST DRINK FOR 1 ADULT**

£6 - ON DAY WRISTBAND (NO DRINK)

PAID BAR, BBQ & ACTIVITIES

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY

THE SEARLE TRUST – Debden Annual Assembly Report

In 1956, Emily Searle made a will leaving her bungalow at Deyne Syde to her daughter, Florence, who was to be allowed to live there until her death, and thereafter the property was to be left to Debden Parish Church. Emily died in 1959 – her grave can be found near the footpath close to the bottom gate in the churchyard. Florence died in 2004. Through the efforts of a small group, led by the late Henry Blackie, who sadly died in November, and with permission of the High Court and the Charity Commission, the property was sold and the funds were passed by the Parochial Church Council to Essex Community Foundation for them to administer and manage for the benefit of the whole parish of Debden. So, in 2007, The Searle Trust came into being as one of the funds within Essex Community Foundation.

Each year, the Trustees of the Foundation decide the amount available for distribution, and consider any applications for grants. In doing so they also consult a small panel of local advisers who are appointed by the Parochial Church Council. The Trust Deed states that “The purposes of the Fund are to further within the area of the Civil Parish of Debden such religious and other community purposes being charitable of the Church of England or other Christian organisation as the Essex Community Foundation with the approval of the Advisers may select from time to time.” In practice, these purposes have been interpreted quite widely for the benefit of the community.

Since 2007, 55 separate grants totalling nearly £172,000 have been awarded to organisations or individuals in Debden. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Emily Searle and Henry Blackie and those who set up the Trust.

Unsurprisingly, with the pandemic, there have been very few requests for grants in the last couple of years, though the Trust would have been able to provide support had applications been made. Distributable funds are available, and Essex Community Foundation welcomes applications. Details of how to apply are on the Foundation website.