

January, 1973

Dear *Mr. + Mrs. Weedon,*

Hempstead Village Hall

As you probably know, the people of Hempstead agreed at the 1971 Annual General Meeting that the Village Hall Committee should go ahead with plans to build new toilets and a kitchen on to the Hall at an estimated cost of £2,250. It was hoped that 75% of this money would come from grants from the Government and the County, Rural District and Parish Councils - the balance to be raised by fund-raising activities in the village.

In July of this year the Committee thought they had reached the target, but unfortunately two serious set-backs occurred. Firstly, due to rapidly rising building costs, the estimated cost of the extension has risen to about £3,000, and secondly, the amount available from grants was drastically cut to only 50% of the original estimate, that is £1,125. Even with the funds deposited in the bank, the amount at present available for the extension is only just over £1,500, leaving as much again still to be found.

The Committee is currently negotiating with the various Councils to increase the grants but it is obvious that the amount of money still needed will be too great to commit to even the most devoted fund-raising activities. In addition, the Committee has continually to bridge the gap between income - from a low scale of rental charges - and ever-increasing expenditure: lighting, heating and the maintenance of a Victorian school building.

We all have occasion to use our Hall one way or another from the Playgroup to the Evergreens; for the doctor and the library and for all the social events which could contribute so much to our village life.

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The committee feels very strongly that unless the building is improved, the activities centred on the Hall will decline. We are asking you to show that you want the Village Hall to maintain, and indeed improve, its position as a Community Centre. You can do this by giving a donation now, however small, or by expressing your willingness to covenant a sum of money for the next 7 years, which would enable the Committee to raise a loan to go ahead with improvements immediately.

Yours sincerely,

P. Thomas

Chairman (Yeoman Cottage)

Alison V. Sharp

Secretary (Fanes Cottage)

Please note that there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Village Hall in February 1973, after the results of the appeal are known, to discuss the extension. Notices giving the date will be posted in the village.

Please complete this form, which a member of the Committee will call to discuss within the next two weeks.

- a) I/We would like to see the Village Hall improved so that it can become an effective community centre.

- b) I/We are willing to give a small sum for the Village Hall Extension.

- c) I/We should like to take part in a covenant scheme lasting seven years to the same end, and would pledge £ a year.

- d) I/We feel that the Village Hall should be improved but at less expense.

Signature:

Address:

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