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Join in 'ideas' session to save village hall

AN 'IDEAS' session to come up with fundraising ideas to save Sampford Courtenay Village Hall will take place online next week.

Last summer a £110,000 appeal was launched to save the village hall after it was revealed that major works were needed on the roof and exterior of the building.

Not being able to use the village hall during Covid has shown how valuable it is to the parish community and suspension of the regular social activities has particularly affected those parishioners who are not online or have poor internet coverage, and have been unable to participate in the programme of virtual activities on offer.

An event that did take place in the hall was 'Winter Wonderland' with more than 50 children enjoying a special 'socially distanced' chance to meet Father Christmas and enjoy the displays in the Christmas grotto. Other events that were planned have had to be cancelled or deferred.

So far the hall roof has held out against the heavy rain and high winds this winter but the repairs are still extremely urgent.

As fundraising has taken off plans are now in hand to replace the two main windows which are in danger of collapse but the roof remains in a very sorry state and needs major funds for its repair.

There have been a number of very generous donations to the Village Hall Roof Fund and 'Buy a Tile', where individual tiles, gables or windows can be purchased, is proving very popular. In addition the fundraising group has joined the 'Amazon Smile' scheme and opened a Just Giving page. Details of these can be found on the Sampford Courtenay website.

The fundraising group are currently writing up bids to potential funding charities and organisations and are also planning an online session to gather ideas for further fundraising events and activities.

The 'Ideas' session will be on Thursday, January 28 at 8pm. All are welcome, please use the link on the website to join the meeting and share your ideas on how funds can be raised to save the village hall.

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall was the village school until the early 1950s and later purchased by locals for use as a village hall.