

Lamplugh is located to the north of Copeland district, midway between Egremont and Cockermouth, off the A5086. The parish lies partly within the Lake District National Park, with a total population of approximately 805.

The building was originally built in 1934 for Lamplugh Women's Institute and in 2008 was given to the community to become Lamplugh Village Hall.

Background

When Lamplugh Village Hall committee took over the building in 2008, only the necessary health and safety improvements were made. In 2011 the committee decided to continue improvements by installing insulation, changing the heating system, and a complete interior redecoration. Within a year, use of the hall had increased significantly.

The Project

The committee recognised that the building had its challenges, including limited parking, when many access the hall by car (10 parking spaces, plus 8 informally on a grass verge). An ambitious new build project would give the opportunity to address these issues, however, it was decided that first the focus should be on increasing use of the hall and securing it as a central part of the community.

Whilst making improvements to the current building, the committee thought about how to encourage a wider range of activities, to provide for the local community, and to increase income from more bookings.

What has been achieved?

Improvements have been made in planned and manageable stages, each one building on the success of the last.

The kitchen refurbishment included a larger cooker and fridge, big enough for caterers, and crockery, cutlery etc. to cater for 100 people. A bar can now be set up for events and larger bookings with catering needs can be accommodated.



*Wigton Motor Club Classic Car Run at
Lamplugh Village Hall*

A quality projector was fitted in the ceiling and the sound system has been updated with a microphone, amplifier and hearing loop. These provide better facilities and have helped support the already successful film nights being run by the hall. A phone line and WiFi router have been fitted to provide internet access at the hall and a computer club has also been set up.

A new website, Facebook page and email for bookings has been created, with the web address: www.lamplughvillagehall.org.uk clearly displayed on the main sign on the front of the building. An online calendar makes it easy for everyone to see what's on at the hall in the coming months and for anyone looking to book to check availability.

'An Evening With' events, including a meal, drinks and entertaining speaker, have proven popular. Tickets for events can now also be bought online, with many being purchased this way. 60 of the 80 tickets available for sell out event 'An Evening With Malcolm Wilson', a local rally driver, were sold this way.



'Dick Whittington' performance



Art Workshop

An exhibition attracted new members to join the art group, which hires the hall for its classes. Other groups include: WI, Parish Council, Heritage Society, Young Farmers, Over Sixties Club, Yoga, and Karate. Events such as 'Bangers and Beans', dominoes nights and coffee mornings have also helped to attract people to the hall.

Lamplugh Village Hall pens and key chain torches, with the email address engraved / printed, have sold really well. These generate a small income and also help promote the hall.

The committee want to continue to organise events that are popular with local people and also create income which can be reinvested into future events and development.

The hall is well used and central to community life. The new-build project is well underway, with plans to build on land behind the current hall creating much needed additional parking space where the current hall stands. Most of the funding needed has been secured and building work is due to start later this year.

Village hall committee member Bob Marshall was named Copeland's Person of the Year at the 2019 West Cumbria Community Heroes Awards, in recognition of his commitment and vision for the charity.

The Learning

- Ensure your village hall is working well and make the most of what you have before starting an ambitious rebuild.
- Promoting the hall online with a good website, and keeping it up to date, is vital.
- Advertising the hall well helps increase bookings and the amount of local support for events. The monthly Parish magazine publishes what's on and people also keep up to date with the posts on Facebook.
- The current building is not fit for purpose. Lack of storage is a problem (mainly for tables and chairs when not in use), as is the lack of parking and not having a separate meeting room. These restrictions, together with the hall's successes have made it clear that they need to rebuild and expand in order to offer the community what they need.
- Providing a range of events and activities, and increased use by the community, has improved the hall's financial sustainability and helped support funding bids for the rebuild project. The increased community support also gives the committee confidence to develop such a project.

Contact Details

Visit: www.lamplughvillagehall.org.uk or contact Paul Twyford (Chair) on Tel: 01946 861033, Email: paultwy@btinternet.com

ACT champions community and rural issues

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria, Offices O - Q Skirsgill Business Park, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0FA
 T: 01228 817224 | www.cumbriaaction.org.uk | info@cumbriaaction.org.uk | Follow us @ACTCumbria and on Facebook
 Registered in England as Voluntary Action Cumbria | Charity Registration Number 1080875 | Company Number 3957858

©ACT 2020. This publication may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as ACTion with Communities in Cumbria copyright and the title of the publication specified.