

# News from Blockley Little Village Hall

The Elisha Smith Institute  
Registered Charity No. 1042374  
Bell Bank, Blockley, GL56 9BB



## Blockley's refurbished Little Village Hall to be reopened by Councillor Sue Jepson

Blockley's uniquely beautiful Little Village Hall is to be formally reopened by Cotswold District Councillor Sue Jepson after a major upgrade of its kitchen facilities and other more minor improvements.

The reopening ceremony will take place on Saturday 11 January 2020 at 12 noon and the public are being invited to attend and view the new features between 11.30am and 3.30pm, during which time light refreshments will be served.

Located on Bell Bank in the village, the Hall's £20,000 upgrade programme was supported by grants from the National Lottery Community Fund, Cotswold District Council and The Summerfield Charitable Trust.

The refurbishment involved creating a better equipped kitchen with a larger floor area in which to work. A serving hatch has been provided to the main hall and the toilet facilities have been improved to cater more adequately for the disabled and for baby-changing.

"The Little Village Hall is such a huge asset to Blockley", said Councillor Jepson. "The Hall has a real unique presence of its own and the refurbishment will enable this valuable asset to continue to be



*Blockley Little Village Hall's new kitchen*

used for the village for many more years to come. I am delighted that I was able to obtain a grant from Cotswold District Council to help with the finance of the refurbishment.”

“These long awaited improvements have been very warmly welcomed by Hall users and we are most grateful to Cotswold District Council and the other donors who have made this possible”, commented chairman Robert Willott. “The reopening coincides with the launch of the Hall’s own website at [www.blockleylittlevillagehall.org](http://www.blockleylittlevillagehall.org) which provides comprehensive information about the amenities available.”

Blockley Little Village Hall is an attractive Grade II listed heritage building that provides a charmingly unique environment for all kinds of activities, meetings and community events involving up to 50 people. On two occasions it has been transformed into a set for the BBC’s “Father Brown” TV series.

Originally constructed in the late 18th Century as a church meeting house by the Reverend Elisha Smith - Baptist preacher, enlightened social reformer and leading Blockley merchant - the chapel was acquired after the First World War and placed in a trust on behalf of the people of Blockley by Elisha's great-grandson Edward Robinson who converted it at his own expense to a village hall.

Whether a music rehearsal, party or business meeting, the Hall has everything the user might need – and at competitive hire rates. If required, light meals and refreshments can be ordered from Craig Stanley’s café in the village.

Modern audio-visual equipment is also being installed for use by local groups and business away-days alike.

For booking enquiries, please contact Diane McCaul on 01386 700880.

**ENDS**



*Inside Blockley Little Village Hall*



*Blockley Little Village Hall - external view*

*Pictures attached:* (1) The refurbished kitchen; (2) Blockley Village Hall’s interior, (3) Blockley Little Village Hall - external view of heritage building.

*Further information from:*

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