

'Let's make it happen' call to Sandleheath residents

By Katy Griffin

THE community of Sandleheath has celebrated a significant milestone as some £80,000 has now been raised towards its new village hall.

The hall is located in the disused St Aldhelm's Church, which needed substantial renovation to ensure it was fit for its new role.

The charity trustees who manage Sandleheath Village Hall said they are "delighted" to have phase one of a fundraising appeal to refurbish the building.

The money so far has been raised by the community, a variety of private and municipal sponsors and some grant-making organisations, which will allow the complete renovation of the hall's kitchen and toilet block, introducing disabled facilities for the first time. Work is due to start soon.

In addition to this fundraising feat, the trustees have started looking ahead to phase two, the remaining works requirement, and marked this by placing three new publicity signs in the village.

Trustee and fundraiser Mike Richardson said: "We are delighted at the response of the village to our challenging appeal, and the phase one building work to create our new facilities will start soon."

"We now need to raise a similar amount in phase two to modernise the main building, update it and make it more environmentally efficient."

"Once that's achieved, we will have a modern, well-equipped and serviceable village hall."

"Our new signs are designed to remind everyone who lives in or visits Sandleheath that we are still fundraising and that there is something exciting going on in Sandleheath."



Richard and Asa Crossley, managing director and Financial Director of RNC Fabrications, Sandleheath with members of the Village Hall

Step forward for new village hall

The three village hall signs have been generously sponsored by RNC Fabrications, Tubefab Ltd and the Wolvercroft Garden Centre. These local companies have also contributed to the refurbishment appeal.

Sandleheath Village Hall will remain open during the first overhaul and is available for hire.

The Church of England parish church of Saint Aldhelm was built on land gifted to the church by the Hulse family.

The Foundation Stone was laid by Lady Hulse on June 14 1907. The building was designed by the architect Charles Ponting.

In November 2018, the Trustees of Sandleheath Village Hall leased the St Aldhelm's building from the church authorities for a period of 25 years.

To donate to the Village Hall Fundraising Appeal or for more information about the project, visit sandleheathvillagehall.com/donate

Tribute to pensioner after crash

THE family of a grandmother from Ashley Heath who died after a crash on the M27 say she will be "greatly missed".

Zoe Eleanor MacLennan, 90, (pictured) died following the single vehicle collision on Monday, October 23.

Officers were called to the incident at junction 1 of the M27 at 11.30am, which involved a blue Honda Jazz.

Her family said: "We are

deeply shocked and saddened by her sudden passing, not long after the bereavement of losing her husband.

"Zoe will be greatly missed by her son and daughter, granddaughters and all those who loved her."

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hampshire emergency

services for all their efforts after arriving promptly at the scene."

Investigations into the exact circumstances of the crash are ongoing.

Anyone with information can call us on 101, quoting 44190379830, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Lego show for Avonway

A LEGO show is being held in Fordingbridge on Saturday to support Avonway Community Centre's roof appeal.

The centre needs to raise around £80,000 for the vital repairs.

The event is being organised by All the Cool Stuff in Fordingbridge and takes place in the town hall and at Avonway from 10am until 3pm.

All the Cool Stuff raised £417 to support premature and sick babies after holding a toy weekend on October 19 and 20 in aid of Bliss.

Road closure

A CLOSURE will be in place on Edmondsam Road in Verwood for urgent maintenance work to be carried out.

The closure is due to be in place until tomorrow.

The closure is on the section beyond the roundabout near Eastworth Farm.

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