



Chairman of Wiltshire county council Bill Moss cuts the ribbon to reopen the newly refurbished West Grimstead village hall, last Friday, watched by villagers and committee members. DB0245P1

Hall officially reopens

WILTSHIRE county council chairman Bill Moss performed the official reopening last Friday of West Grimstead village hall, which has undergone a refurbishment costing almost £50,000.

The revamp was completed within budget and on time. Despite only taking four months, the refurbishment was at least five years in the planning, during which time about half of the cost was amassed within the village through fundraising events.

The village hall was originally built in 1913 at a cost of £435 and, even after the refurbishment, is largely the same building that it was then.

Among guests attending Friday's reopening were representatives of organisations that provided grants for the revamp project. They included Dr Ian Carnell, director of Cleansing Services Group, and Michael Jones, of Waste Management Associates (consultants to Cleansing Services), which advanced money under the landfill tax credit scheme.

Also there were Bill Plews, chairman of Wiltshire Village Halls Association, and Bob Bradshaw, of Community First. Wiltshire county council and Salisbury district council also made grants, without which the project could not have been undertaken.

Others attending the event included Canon Michael Ward, rector of Clarendon team ministry, George Bayford, chairman of Grimstead parish council, Liz Bayford, clerk to the parish council, Dave Hutchings, of Middleton Builders, and Robert Amor (architect).

Following the refurbishment, the village hall has a modern kitchen, facilities for the disabled, a new toilet and cloakroom area and a main hall with new heating and lighting systems.