# RISK ASSESSMENT OF BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL. April 2009. Issue 2.

# SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT! SAFETY IS COMMON SENSE. COMMON SENSE IS NOT ALWAYS COMMON.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION.

This Risk Assessment has been performed of the Buckland Newton Village Hall in the county of Dorset in response to the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. These regulations require that a Risk Assessment is performed, but as the Village Hall has less than six employees this risk assessment need not be documented. However, the performance and documentation of a systematic Risk Assessment is considered to be of significant benefit for the protection of life, for Hall insurance purposes and to demonstrate that the Village Hall Committee is acting in the best interests of the Hall users and the Village as a whole. The scope of the Risk Assessment has therefore been extended to cover risks to Hall users, to volunteers engaged in Hall maintenance and improvements, to those supporting activities in the Hall, those visiting the grounds (the public has access to the grounds surrounding the Hall), to the local environment, and to the Hall itself. The Risk assessment does not explicitly evaluate security risk.

Safety risk assessments are normally performed in compliance with Regulations and to support the implementation of a safety policy. A Buckland Newton Village Hall Safety Policy has therefore been defined and endorsed by the Village Hall Management Committee. The Buckland Newton Village Hall Safety Policy is included in Appendix I of this document. This Risk Assessment responds to the Village Hall Safety Policy.

# 2. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY.

This safety risk assessment was initially performed for the Buckland Newton Village Hall in 2005 and has subsequently been updated to reflect the current safety status of the village hall. The assessment evaluates a list of generic hazards for their specific applicability to the Buckland Newton Village Hall, and is followed by a systematic assessment of those hazards to identify related possible accidents and their consequences.

The hazard assessments do not address probability. This assessment is documented in Appendix II to this document. The results of the hazard assessment are then used as the primary input to the risk assessment that provides a qualitative judgment of the likelihood and severity of the identified safety risks. Issue 2 of this risk assessment documents the current status of the identified risks and associated risk reduction measures.

# 3. GENERIC HAZARDS.

DEFINITION: HAZARD: Any thing, or activity, that can result in harm to people, the local environment, the Hall itself or private property.

A "Hazard" is not necessarily an undesired event, but hazardous events can occur as the result of a hazard being combined with some accident initiating cause.

The following pages list those hazards that are considered to be the generic for Village Hall type of public buildings and their associated activities. Hazards that are identified as "Not Applicable" to Buckland Newton Village Hall have not been assessed further.

# GENERIC HAZARDS LIST.

# 1. Mains electricity:

- High voltage/current;
- Hot electrical equipment (heaters, cookers,);
- Potential ignition sources (electrical and electronic equipment, electrical wiring, wall sockets, fuse/circuit breaker units, lighting and flexes and plugs).

# 2. Heating and Cooking:

- Mains Gas (Not Applicable);
- Bottled Gas (Not Applicable);
- Heating Oil;
- Ignition sources within heating boilers;
- Boiler exhaust fumes and flues;
- Hot electrical heating elements;
- Hot accessible surfaces;
- Hot water.

# 3. Chemicals:

- Cleaning Materials;
- Maintenance Materials,
- Building Materials.

# 4. Waste Materials:

- kitchen waste:
- glass bottles, jars, etc.
- cleaning waste.

# 5. Flammable Materials:

- Soft Furnishings;
- Curtains
- Waste paper.

# 6. Mechanical Hazards:

- Stacked items (chairs, tables, etc.);
- Heavy or Insecure Doors;
- Heavy items on shelves or overhead (e.g. stage lighting,).

# 7. Mains Water.

- piping;
- toilets;
- taps;
- header tanks (not applicable).

# 8. Weather:

- Rain;
- Wind;
- Frost;
- Lightning.

# 9. Building & Grounds Characteristics:

- Stairs;
- Uneven paths/floors;
- Limited access areas;
- Enclosed limited access spaces;
- Badly illuminated areas;
- Low doorways;
- Vehicle movement and access;
- Adjacent Large Trees;
- Stream and ponds;
- Dangerous plants.

# 10. Hazardous Activities:

- Working on ladders;
- Tree pruning/felling;
- Setting up and dismantling of electrical equipment;
- Maintenance or modification of the electrical distribution system;
- Moving/lifting of heavy objects;
- Re-filling of stored Gas (not applicable) or Oil tanks.

# 3. RISK ASSESSMENT RESULTS.

The Generic Hazards listed above can have the following generic hazardous consequences (sometimes referred to as "safety risks") associated with them:

- fire
- electric shock;
- injury;
- poisoning and sickness;
- property damage;
- environmental contamination;.
- loss of life.

This risk assessment has initially evaluated each of these consequences for possible causes taking into account the results of the hazard assessments and current existing conditions in the Hall. Abbreviated "risk trees" for each of the identified safety risks are included in Appendix III.

These "risk trees" provide tracability between the safety risk and the related hazard assessments. A subjective judgment has been made as to the likelihood of the various events and safety risks and most significant are highlighted with recommendations for risk reduction where this is felt to be necessary.

The following qualitative categories have been used to rank the risk contributing events and the safety risks:

- Very likely to occur;

- Likely to occur;
- Directly to occur
- Possible;
- Unlikely to occur;
- Very unlikely to occur.

The likelihood of events has initially been initially judged without considering the effects of implementing of any of the recommendations. Recommendations have been made with the

objectives of eliminating or reducing the hazard; reducing the severity of the final consequence; or reducing the likelihood of the event occurring.

3.1 FIRE (Can result in loss of life or destruction of the Village Hall).

Based on the Hazard Assessments performed it has been determined the possible causes of a fire in the Hall are:

- a) electrical fault in, or damage to, the power distribution circuits in the Hall (Unlikely to occur);
- b) faulty portable electrical equipment combined with inadequate electrical fault protection due to incorrect fuse in plug, or incorrect plug wiring (Very Unlikely to occur);
- c) loose or bad connections within electrical plugs (Unlikely to occur);
- d) leakage of heating oil within the central heating boiler (Unlikely to occur);
- e) kitchen fire due to unattended pan overheating, or placing flammable items on a hot cooker ring (**Possible**);
- f) ignition of flammable materials due to:
- 1. discarded cigarette (Very Unlikely to occur as smoking is not allowed by law within the Hall); 2. use of candles, naked flames, or pyrotechnics (**Possible**);
- 3. ignition of flammable maintenance materials during maintenance activities (Unlikely to occur);
- g) lightning strike (Very unlikely to occur).

The highest risk of fire is due to events: e or f2.

The following procedures have been put in place:

- Safe kitchen procedures are established, including: limiting the number of people using the kitchen at any one time; requiring that no pan be left unattended on the cooker. These measures should make cooking related fires Very unlikely.
- Hall users are informed that use of candles, naked flames or pyrotechnics within the Hall requires prior permission of the Village Hall Committee.

With regard to those events that were originally assessed as unlikely to occur, the following recommendations have been implemented which should make their occurrence Very Unlikely:

- Annual PAT testing of all portable and transportable electrical equipment has been instituted.
- Plugs, flexes, wall sockets lighting fixtures and electrical equipment are inspected regularly for missing items (safety covers, light bulbs, etc.), and obvious damage. Items that are unsafe will be removed from use until repair or equipment replacement is completed.
- Procedures have been established and provisions made for the safe use, removal, and disposal of waste paper and other flammable materials.
- A service and maintenance schedule has been established for the hall heating system.

The following additional measures have been taken in order to further reduce the chance of a fire resulting in loss of life:

- Fire Alarm buttons, emergency exits and fire extinguishers have clear access maintained both internally and externally. Regular checks have been instituted to ensure that this is the case;

# 3.2. ELECTRIC SHOCK (Can result in loss of life).

Based on the Hazard Assessments performed it has been determined the possible causes of an electric shock are:

- a) exposed electrical conductors due to damaged wall sockets, flexes, plugs, or electrical equipment (**Possible**);
- b) portable electrical equipment with live external surfaces due to internal faults or incorrectly wired plugs (Unlikely to occur);
- c) misuse of electrical sockets (Very unlikely to occur).

The highest risk of electric shock is due to cause a).

The following procedures have been established:

- Plugs, flexes, wall sockets lighting fixtures and electrical equipment are inspected regularly for missing items (safety covers, light bulbs, etc.), and obvious damage. Items that are unsafe will be removed from use until repair or equipment replacement is completed.
- Annual PAT testing of all portable and transportable electrical equipment has been instituted.

This makes it Very Unlikely that electric shock can result from these items.

# 3.3 INJURY.

Based on the Hazard Assessments and Risk Tree No. 3, injury is the hazardous consequence that is most likely to occur. This is due to the number and likelihood of initiating events that could result in injury to people (see risk tree No. 3). Furthermore some injury events could result in loss of life.

Those events that could lead to loss of life are:

- a) falling trees or heavy branches (Very Unlikely to occur);
- b) falling roofing materials (Very Unlikely to occur);
- c) falling off ladders or whilst pruning trees (**Possible**);
- d) falling off the stage (Possible);

The highest risks to life are from events c), and d).

The following procedures and requirements have been established:

- use of the hall ladder has been limited to when a minimum of two, preferably three persons are present to allow the ladder to be stabilized and assistance to be provided when handing items up or down the ladder.
- tree pruning at heights is performed only by volunteer professionals.
- children are not allowed on the stage or in the kitchen without adult supervision. Rules and warnings have been established, documented and displayed. Play Group Supervisors have been notified.

These procedures and requirements should make these events Unlikely. As human error can still occur, the likelihood of these events occurring cannot be further reduced

With respect to the risks from event a):

The existing regular programme of tree inspection and pruning should be sufficient to maintain loss of life from falling trees and branches as unlikely to occur.

The following events can also cause injury:

- a) minor burns or scalds caused by: 1. faulty heating boiler (Very unlikely);

  - 2. inadvertent contact with hot cooking equipment (Possible);
  - 3. spilling of boiling water (**Possible**);
  - 4. contact with very hot tap water (Unlikely to occur);
  - 5. contact with hot Dimplex fan heaters in the toilets. (Very unlikely to occur).
- b) contact with corrosive or toxic cleaning fluids (Very Unlikely);
- c) contact with broken glass (Very unlikely to occur);
- d) falling of stacked items or items off shelves (Unlikely);
- e) lifting too heavy loads (Possible);
- f) trapping fingers or a hand in the patio doors (**Possible**);
- g) falling lights, light shades, or ceiling panels (Very Unlikely to occur)
- h) collapse of storage shelves (Unlikely to occur);
- i) inadvertent opening of loft hatch (Unlikely to occur);
- j) falling down stage stairs or off the stage (Unlikely to occur for adults but **Possible** for unsupervised children);
- k) tripping over step which is the main access to the oil tank and wildlife area (Unlikely to occur):
- 1) low doorway between main hall and kitchen (likely to occur but only with insignificant injury or discomfort);
- m) car accident (Unlikely):
- n) scratches (possibly to eyes) from brambles or thorns, or stings from stinging nettles in the wild life area (Unlikely to occur).

The highest risk of injury is assessed to be from events a2; a3; e; f; j, and m. The following risk reducing measures have been implemented:

- Safe kitchen procedures including waste disposal are in place. Waste disposal containers are provided.
- Unsupervised children are not allowed in the kitchen or on the stage.
- Cleaning and maintenance materials are stored in locked cupboards and relevant COSHH sheets displayed.
- Procedures for the movement and stacking of hall chairs, use of the ladder, and for the movement and carrying of heavy items have been established.

To further reduce the risk of injury a means of securing the patio doors in the open position needs to be provided. In the meantime the doors will be kept closed when there are children in the Hall.

# 3.4 POISONING AND SICKNESS.

Poisoning and sickness can result from the events shown in Risk Tree No. 4. Furthermore these events could cause loss of life. These events are:

- a) exposure to asbestos fibres (Unlikely to occur);
- b) exposure to toxic fumes from the central heating boiler (Very Unlikely to occur);
- c) eating poisonous berries or seeds (Very Unlikely to occur);
- d) exposure to toxic cleaning materials or cleaning waste (Unlikely to occur);
- e) food poisoning due to contamination of food preparation areas (Very unlikely as little food is prepared from scratch on the premises).

While these events are, at worst, unlikely, they remain a risk to life in the worst case. The following recommendations are therefore made to reduce these risks still further to Very unlikely:

- The asbestos roofing material on the village hall appears to be in good order. It should be left well alone while in this condition.

If left in place, the following further measures can be taken to prevent deterioration: - Seal and paint:

1. prime asbestos sheet with alkali resistant primer;

# Do not sand prior to sealing or painting.

2. paint with a bitumastic paint, e.g. Aquaseal or "Synthaprufe" or Seal with PVC adhesive, e.g. "Unibond".

Should it be necessary to remove the asbestos cement roofing, removal can be undertaken without the need for a specialist contractor subject to the following precautions:

Always work in well-ventilated areas, wearing appropriate washable over-clothing and dust masks suitable for asbestos use.

The storage area under the asbestos roof should be cleared prior to starting the roof removal.

Do not use any power tools and avoid breaking up the panels into small pieces.

Thoroughly soak the material before starting work. Introduce a suitable wetting agent, e.g., washing-up liquid, into the water before saturation of the panels.

Undo fixing bolts, screws etc. (do not cut or grind them, use releasing fluid if fixings are corroded) and remove the panels complete.

Prevent the dropping of the roofing material from heights into refuse skips.

Stack the removed panels in the open and cover with plastic sheet.

Thoroughly clean the storage space after the roof removal has been completed. Small loose pieces should be soaked and swept (no vacuum cleaning) into stout plastic sacks and then sealed.

Arrangements must be made to dispose of the material prior to the commencement of its removal. It is recommended that the Dorset County Council Waste Disposal and Management be contacted on 01305-225002 for any specific local requirements that may be applicable. There is a duty of care for commercial contractors to dispose of materials correctly. If large quantities are involved, some skip hire companies (listed in yellow pages) will provide covered skips for asbestos use, providing they are made aware of the nature of the material at the time of booking.

A procedure for the regular inspection of the building fabric, including the asbestos roof, is in place which will ensure that no unacceptable deterioration in condition takes place.

# 3.5 PROPERTY DAMAGE.

Property damage can result from the events shown in Risk Tree No. 5. These are:

- a) Rain intrusion or flooding (Very unlikely to occur);
- b) Wind damage (Very unlikely to occur);
- c) Damage from falling trees due to strong winds (Unlikely to occur);
- d) Wind blown roof slates or roofing sheets (Very Unlikely to occur);
- e) Lightning strike damages the building; (Very unlikely to occur);
- f) Frost damage to pipes or cisterns cases water leakage (Very unlikely to occur);
- g) Leaking taps or cistern valves combined with blocked/frozen sink drains or cistern overflows (Very Unlikely to occur).

None of the above events are considered to be significant risks due to the present condition of the hall building, the heating system, the grounds and the trees within the grounds. However these will naturally deteriorate over time. The establishment and documentation of a regular inspection and maintenance programme that addresses the Hall building condition, the central heating and the grounds is therefore essential. This programme is in pace and will also reduce the risks from those events that are assessed as unlikely to Very unlikely.

# 3.6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION.

Environmental contamination can result from the events shown in Risk Tree No. 6. These are:

- a) Leakage of the heating oil storage tank (Unlikely to occur);
- b) Damage and leakage of: the oil supply pipe (Unlikely to occur);
  - sight gauge and valves (Unlikely to occur);
  - safety valve (Unlikely);
- c) Oil spill during tank filling (Very Unlikely to occur);
- d) Release of asbestos particles due to: cutting, drilling or grinding of the asbestos roof

(Very Unlikely to occur);

- deterioration of the asbestos roof condition (Unlikely to occur):
- fire damage to the asbestos roof (Very Unlikely to occur).

The highest risk is of environmental contamination by asbestos particles due to the severity of the potential consequences of this event. This event and the associated risk reduction measures are addressed in Risk Assessments 3.1 and 3.4 above.

While events a) and b) are unlikely they could result in serious contamination of the local aquifer. As the installation is new (2001/2) most likely causes are vandalism or accidental damage. The following has therefore been implemented:

- A fence and gate which limits the obvious accessibility to the rear of the Hall where the Heating Oil Tank is situated;

This should reduce the risk of oil leakage to Very unlikely.

# 3.7 LOSS OF LIFE.

The potential for loss of life in addressed in Risk Tree No. 7. As can be seen from the tree, all potential causes for loss of life result from events already addressed in other risk trees and risk assessments namely: Fire; Electrical Shock; Injury (Falling trees/branches, or roofing materials; or falling from ladders, falling from the stage); and Poisoning and Sickness.

The chance of a fire occurring was initially assessed in 3.1 as "Possible". However, with the existing fire alarm system and emergency exits the risk of loss of life as a result of a fire is considered to be "very unlikely". The risk of a fire occurring is reduced to "Very unlikely" by the recommendations of 3.1. This would result in an even lower level of risk of loss of life due to a fire when account is taken of the protection provided by the fire alarm system and the emergency exits. This assessment is based on only limited efforts being made to extinguish a fire using the portable extinguishers (no heroics) and the assumption that the Hall is not used as sleeping accommodation on any occasion, as there are no automatic fire alarms installed.

The chance of an electrical shock causing loss of life is assessed in 3.2 as "Possible". However, the risk of electric shock is reduced to "Very unlikely" by the measures which have been implemented.

The chance of injury causing loss of life is assessed in 3.3 as "Possible" for falling off ladders or off the stage or down the stage stairs. The latter is of particular concern where children are involved.

This risk is reduced to "unlikely" by the implementation of the recommendations that are made in 3.3. These recommendations are based on continuously following defined procedures, and are therefore particularly sensitive to human error. This results in it being very difficult to further reduce this level of risk.

The chance of poisoning and sickness causing loss of life is addressed in 3.4 as "Unlikely" for exposure to toxic or corrosive cleaning materials that are a particular risk for children. This level of risk is dependent on keeping all potentially toxic materials in the locked cupboards in the cloakroom. Regular checks should be made that no potentially toxic materials are left out or in the cupboards in the kitchen or the cloakroom.

The risk due to exposure to asbestos particles is initially assessed as "unlikely", however as this exposure has such severe consequences the implementation of the related recommendations is considered to be essential

# 3.8 SUMMARY.

The most severe safety risks associated with the Buckland Newton village hall are loss of life and loss of the village hall due to fire.

Fire is assessed as Very Unlikely. The most likely causes are identified as loose or bad connections within electrical plugs, accidents involving sources of naked flames, and kitchen accidents. While fire can cause loss of life, the availability of the fire bell and fire alarm system and the numerous emergency exits makes it Very unlikely that a fire would result in loss of life. It must be emphasized that this assessment is based on: limited efforts being made to extinguish a fire using the portable extinguishers (no heroics), and the assumption that the Hall is not used as sleeping accommodation on any occasion, as there are no automatic fire alarms installed.

With respect other causes of loss of life, the most likely contributing events are children falling from the stage, and volunteer helpers falling from ladders. The chance of these events occurring can only be reduced to "unlikely" as the risk reduction recommendations are based on continuously following defined procedures, which makes them particularly sensitive to human error.

Potentially toxic cleaning and maintenance materials are shown to be a significant risk to young children. The removal of all toxic cleaning materials would eliminate this risk, however this is unlikely to be a practical option. Some toxic materials have been removed but it is still essential that all cleaning materials are stored in the secure cupboards in the cloakroom out of the reach of small children.

Injury is the hazardous consequence that is most likely to occur, as there many activities undertaken by volunteers. The main risk originates from activities involving working at heights, unsupervised children being allowed on the stage or in the kitchen, and there remains some risk originating in kitchen activities and from unsecured patio doors. The establishment of safe working practices and procedures is an essential means of reducing the risks to volunteers. It is also recommended that Hall volunteers also be provided with first aid training. A first aid kit is available in the Hall. Professionally trained individuals should only perform high-risk activities.

# 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

There are no identified safety risks associated with the Buckland Newton Village Hall that are considered to be unacceptable at this time (April 2009). Hall Safety has been established as a regular item on the Agenda of the Buckland Newton Village Hall Management Committee.

The only currently open item is the provision of a means of securing the patio doors in the open position. While this is not a major risk, this should be attended to in the near future. In the meantime the doors will be kept closed when there are children in the Hall.

It is recommended that this risk assessment be revisited and updated at regular intervals or when changes are made to the Hall which could impact on safety.

Keith M. Wright, Buckland Newton, 8/05/09. Email: KeithMWright@compuserve.com

# RISK ASSESSMENT OF BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL.

# **APPENDIX I**

#### BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL SAFETY POLICY.

It is the Policy of the Buckland Newton Village Hall Committee to protect Hall employees, users, volunteer workers, the local environment, and the Village Hall and its contents from the risks associated with the Hall's activities. In the implementation of this policy, priority will be given to the protection of life and the prevention of injury.

The Buckland Newton Village Hall Management Committee will therefore endeavour to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all Hall users and those who may visit the Hall and its grounds.

The Committee will also endeavour to provide and maintain as far as is reasonably practicable, safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and procedures for Hall employees, casual labour and voluntary helpers, and to provide such information, training and supervision as they need for this purpose.

The allocation of duties for safety matters and the particular supporting arrangements will be set out in procedures established to support the implementation of this Safety Policy.

The policy will be kept up to date, particularly in the light of any changes to our buildings or activities, or to the applicable regulations and conditions of use. To ensure this, the policy and the way in which it has operated will be reviewed regularly and the appropriate changes made.

In order to ensure that health and safety matters are kept constantly under review, an item addressing health and safety will be on the agenda for all meetings of the Buckland Newton Village Hall Committee, and employees and voluntary workers will be consulted on a regular basis in order to seek their views on health and safety matters.

Signed (on behalf of the Buckland Newton	Village Hall Management Committee):
Signature:	Date:

# RISK ASSESSMENT OF BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL.

# APPENDIX II.

# **HAZARD ASSESSMENT RESULTS.**

# **CONTENTS:**

HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 1.	- Mains Electricity Distribution.
HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 2.1.	- Heating.
HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 2.2.	- Cooking and Washing.
HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 3.1.	- Chemicals.
HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 3.2.	- Building Materials.
HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 4.	- Waste Materials.
HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 5.	- Flammable Materials.
HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 6.	- Mechanical Hazards
HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 7.	- Mains Water.
HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 8.	- Weather.
HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 9.1.	- Building Characteristics.

HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 9.2 - Hall Grounds Characteristics

HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 10. - Hazardous Activities.

**SUBJECT:** Mains Electricity Distribution.

**LOCATION:** Throughout the Village Hall.

**APPLICABLE HAZARDS:** 400-volt 3 phase AC mains electricity supply distributed to wall outlets as 230-volt single phase.

#### POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- 1. Ignition source leading to fire resulting in death of people in the Hall or loss of the Hall.
- 2. Electrical Shock leading to injury or loss of life.

# **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1.1 Faulty or damaged wiring resulting in a short circuit and overheating combined with inadequate electrical fault protection (failure of the Earthed Equipotential Bonding and Automatic Disconnection of Supply (EEBADS)).
- 1.2 Faulty portable and transportable electrical equipment resulting in over current and overheating combined with inadequate electrical fault protection (e.g. earth fault or incorrect fuse value).
- 1.3 Bad connections within electrical plugs or the fixed installation results in overheating of joints.
- 2.1 Faulty electrical equipment or miswired plugs results in live external surfaces.
- 2.2 Misuse of electrical supply sockets (particularly risk applicable to playgroup children) e.g. by insertion of something which conducts into a wall socket or through water spillage.
- 2.3 Damaged hall wiring or circuit components (circuit breaker box, light switches/controls, wall sockets) results in exposed electrical conductors.
- 2.4. Water in contact with live conductors or outlet sockets due to rain water ingress, or mains water leakage.

# ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

- 1.1, 1.2, 2.3, & 2.4. The Buckland Newton Village Hall electrical supply installation was, for the most part renewed during the rebuilding work which took place during 2001. On completion of this work the installation was verified to comply with existing applicable regulations. This certificate was initially s valid until 2006 and following some upgrading of the system, has since been re-validated for a further five years.
  1.2, 1.3, 2.1 & 2.3. The Analyst did not inspect all of the installed or portable electrical equipment. Some
- electrical equipment in use at the time of the initial assessment was quite old (e.g. water heaters, boilers, cooker Dimplex fan heaters). The hall vacuum cleaner is new since the hall was rebuilt in 2001. Since 2005, the cooker has been replaced with a new one, the Diplex heaters have been removed and PAT testing initiated for all portable electrical equipment.
- 2.2 & 2.4 All supply outlets in the main hall meet BS1363 Part 2 1995 and are constructed with safety shutters which prevent direct contact. No electrical outlets are adjacent to water taps.
- 2.4. The Buckland Village Hall was partially re-built in 2001 when the major part of the roof was replaced and the main hall completely re-built to current building codes, including thermal insulation requirements. Central heating was installed at this time. It is therefore considered that water leakage due to burst pipes or rainwater ingress is Unlikely a long as the condition of the roof above the entrance foyer and toilets is regularly checked. Taps, water heaters, water boilers and kettles toilet cisterns are regularly checked for leakage and repaired or replaced as necessary. Children using water within the Hall should be supervised at all times.

Furthermore, should a fire occur, the Hall has a manual fire bell with instructions as to its use has been installed in the kitchen. There is also a manually operated fire alarm system installed with initiation points located in the entrance hallway, the main hall (3), the kitchen, and the main storeroom to the right of the stage. This alarm system shows a non-existent fault but is operational. It is regularly tested. There are no automatic smoke alarms installed.

There is a 9 Litre water fire extinguisher installed in the entrance hallway, a 4.5 Kg powder extinguisher in the storeroom to the right of the stage (which is adjacent to the central heating cupboard), and a 2 Kg CO2 fire extinguisher and fire blanket in the kitchen. Extinguishers are checked annually.

Emergency exits are located in the entrance hallway (1), main hall (4), main storeroom to the right of the stage (1), and the committee room (1). The kitchen has one external door, access via a lifting counter to the main hall and a door to the committee room. The smaller storeroom has doors to the main storeroom and the committee room. Emergency exit lights are provided for all emergency exits. Ref. Emergency Lighting Periodic Inspection and Testing Certificate ELP/0322664 and Minor Works Certificates 00177, 00272, & 00376.

A fire inspection has been carried out and a current fire safety certificate obtained. Ref. Certificate of Inspection Report FE 7036. An annual contract is in place for the hall fire extinguishers.

# ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

**NONE** 

**SUBJECT:** Heating

**LOCATION:** - Heating Closet (Oil Fired Central Heating Boiler);

- Outside on the rear right hand side of the Hall (Heating Oil Storage Tank);
- Throughout the Hall (Radiators and heating water circulation piping);
- Men and Women's Toilets.

**APPLICABLE HAZARDS:** 1. Flamma

- 1. Flammable and toxic Heating Oil,
- 2. Hot external surfaces of boiler, piping and radiators.
- 3. Toxic and Hot Boiler Exhaust gases;

# POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- 1.1 Leakage of heating oil within the boiler while the boiler is running causes a fire resulting in possible death and/or loss of the Hall.
- 1.2 Leakage of heating oil storage tank, sight gauge, or pipe work external to the building results in local environmental contamination, particularly to the aquifer.
- 2.1 Inadvertent contact with hot heating boiler external surfaces results in superficial injury .
- 2.2 Inadvertent contact with hot heating pipes or radiators results in superficial injury.
- 3.1 Inadvertent contact with hot heating boiler exhaust flue results in superficial injury.
- 3.2 Leakage of boiler exhaust fumes results in a build up of toxic fumes within the heating cupboard which could also possibly contaminate the adjacent storage room resulting in injury or death.

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1.1 Fracture or leakage of oil supply pipe or components within the boiler.
- 1.2 Damage to storage tank, oil level sight gauge, or pipe work during tank re-filling or gardening activities, or as a result of vandalism, or due to degradation of these items over time:
- 2.1 Boiler external surfaces are normally above 45 Deg. C (safe touch temperature), or a fault within the boiler results in the boiler external surfaces reaching temperatures above 45 Deg. C.
- 2.2 Radiator surfaces are normally above 45 Deg. C, or a fault within the heating system results in the boiler external surfaces reaching temperatures above 45 Deg. C.
- 3.1 The heating boiler exhaust flue is accessible to hall users, helpers or maintenance people.
- 3.2 A fault within the boiler or exhaust flue such as a broken pipe or blockage.
- 4. Heaters located where inadvertent contact is possible.

#### ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

- 1.1, 1.2, & 2.1. The Buckland Newton heating system and oil storage tank assembly is new and was installed at the end of 2001/beginning of 2002 as part of the hall rebuild. As such it meets current safety and environmental standards. The oil level sight gauge has a safety shut off valve to prevent oil leakage should the sight gauge be damaged or fail. The oil storage tank assembly was initially accessible by the public and as such could have been vulnerable to vandalism. A fence and gate have since been erected which restrict casual access to the oil tank. The oil supply pipe to the hall has a manual shut off valve at the exit from the tank and has a protective plastic sheath. It is routed under paths and grass and as such should not be susceptible to damage by digging. There is a safety shut-off valve, which is connected to the central heating boiler installed in the oil supply pipe on the rear wall of the hall about 60 cm above the level of the path near where the pipe enters the building. This valve is located away from general public access so is not likely to be damaged.
- 2.2 The heating system has been designed such that normally exposed surfaces do not exceed the safe touch temperature of 45 Degrees Celsius.
- 3.1 The heating boiler outlet is situated on the outside rear wall of the hall about 90 cm. above the level of the path. The outlet is protected by a regulation metal screen guard that prevents accidental contact with hot surfaces. 1.1,1.2,2.1,2.2, & 3,2. The heating boiler and Oil Storage Tank Assembly are regularly serviced and maintained.

#### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

**NONE** 

#### HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 2.2.

**SUBJECT:** Cooking and Washing

**LOCATION:** Kitchen and Cloakroom.

# **APPLICABLE HAZARDS:**

High temperature cooker rings;

Hot Electric Kettle;

Hot Water.

# POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- I. Burns from inadvertent contact with hot equipment or water (cooker, kettles, hot water urn, water boiler, water heaters).
- 2. Misuse of equipment results in overheating and fire.

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1. Carelessness or being unaware that equipment or water is harmfully hot.
- 2.1. Placing of flammable items on hot cooker rings.
- 2.2. Leaving unattended pans (particularly pans for frying) on the cooker.

#### ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

This kitchen is little different from a normal domestic kitchen except that this one is used by many different helpers and is consequently quite crowded with the possibility of lack of awareness of every thing which is going on (e.g. which equipment is operating or hot).

There are warning signs on the hot water heaters indicating water temperature

Frying is a rare activity in the Hall kitchen.

Warning notices are provided in the kitchen where necessary.

Safe kitchen procedures have been established. The Play Group has been instructed not to allow unsupervised children in the kitchen.

# ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

None.

#### HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 3.1.

**SUBJECT:** Chemicals

LOCATION: Cloakroom and Kitchen

#### **APPLICABLE HAZARDS:**

Potentially hazardous cleaning materials (bleach, ammonia, detergent based cleaners) and maintenance materials (paints, wood preservatives, solvents).

# POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- 1. Poisoning or injury from toxic or corrosive liquids.
- 2. Fire due to ignition of flammable maintenance materials, particularly solvents.

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1. Accidental inappropriate exposure to toxic or corrosive liquids by ingestion or through spillage (particularly applicable for small children).
- 2. Spillage of flammable liquid (paint or solvent) near to a source of ignition electric tools, cigarette, or heat gun.

#### ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

- 1. Cleaning materials are stored in lockable cupboards in the cloakroom. Cleaning materials in use have been assessed and a COSHH sheet obtained for the relevant material. A copy has been provided to the Play Group Supervisors and is also displayed on the inside of the cleaning materials storage cupboard.
- 2. Maintenance materials currently stored in the village hall are water based paints. The Hall is currently in a good state of repair with no maintenance activities involving flammable solvents scheduled.

#### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

**NONE** 

#### HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 3.2.

**SUBJECT:** Building Materials.

LOCATION: Roof over Attic Storage area above the Toilets, Entrance Hallway and Cloakroom.

#### **APPLICABLE HAZARDS:**

Asbestos.

# POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

Asbestos/cement sheeting is used for the roof of the Village Hall over the storage space which is above the Hall toilets, entrance hallway and cloakroom. Working with asbestos sheet can release small fibres into the air. Breathing in these fibres can cause fatal diseases. Asbestos-related diseases are currently responsible for about 3000 deaths a year in Britain. There is usually a long delay of between 15 and 60 years between first exposure to asbestos and the first symptoms of disease. The vast majority of those now dying were exposed to asbestos during the 1950s and 1960s, before the current regulations were introduced.

Asbestos is not absorbed through the skin or digestive system and the body will get rid of most of the larger fibres that can enter the nose and mouth. The problems arise due to tiny fibres passing into the lower parts of the lung, where they can stay for years and in some cases work their way through the lung lining.

Breathing in asbestos fibres can eventually lead to a number of diseases. These include:

- asbestosis or fibrosis (scarring) of the lungs;
- lung cancer; and
- mesothelioma, a cancer of the inner lining of the chest wall or abdominal cavity.

**There is no cure for asbestos-related diseases.** Repeated low-level exposures could lead to asbestos-related diseases, although high exposure for longer periods is more likely to be the cause.

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

Cutting, drilling, grinding or abrasion of asbestos roofing sheet, or cracking and deterioration of the roofing sheet integrity due to weathering and frost.

Damage of the roof due to fire.

### ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

There are three main types of asbestos - chrysotile, amosite and crocidolite; they are usually known as white, brown and blue asbestos. Asbestos/cement sheet is made from white asbestos which is the least dangerous of the three types of asbestos listed above. Furthermore, the asbestos fibres are bound within the cement sheet and are normally not released into the atmosphere. Provided the asbestos sheet is intact and in a position where it cannot be easily damaged, as is the case for the Buckland Newton Village Hall, it will not pose a risk to health.

#### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

As the asbestos roofing material appears in good order and repair it does not need to be removed. It should be left well alone! If left in place, the following further measures can be taken:

Seal and paint:

- prime asbestos sheet with alkali resistant primer;

#### Do not sand prior to painting.

- paint with a bitumastic paint, e.g. Aquaseal or "Synthaprufe" or Seal with PVC adhesive, e.g. "Unibond".

N.B. It is a specialist job to deal with soft asbestos, asbestos insulating board (similar to plaster board) or sprayed asbestos coating. Such work is subject to formal controls and **must** be undertaken by licensed contractors. As far as can be determined there is none of this kind of asbestos material in the older parts of Buckland Newton Village Hall. There is none in the new section of the Hall.

Should it be decided to remove the asbestos cement roofing, removal can be undertaken without the need for a specialist contractor subject to the following precautions:

Always work in well-ventilated areas, wearing appropriate washable over-clothing and dust masks suitable for asbestos use.

The storage area under the asbestos roof should be cleared prior to starting the roof removal.

Do not use any power tools and avoid breaking up the panels into small pieces.

Thoroughly soak the material before starting work. Introduce a suitable wetting agent, e.g., washing-up liquid, into the water before saturation of the panels.

Undo fixing bolts, screws etc. (do not cut or grind them, use releasing fluid if fixings are corroded) and remove the panels complete.

Prevent the dropping of the roofing material from heights into refuse skips.

Stack the removed panels in the open and cover with plastic sheet.

Thoroughly clean the storage space after the roof removal has been completed. Small loose pieces should be soaked and swept (no vacuum cleaning) into stout plastic sacks and then sealed.

Arrangements must be made to dispose of the material prior to the commencement of its removal. It is recommended that the Dorset County Council Waste Disposal and Management be contacted on 01305-225002 for any specific local requirements that may be applicable. There is a duty of care for commercial contractors to dispose of materials correctly. If large quantities are involved, some skip hire companies (listed in yellow pages) will provide covered skips for asbestos use, providing they are made aware of the nature of the material at the time of booking.

**SUBJECT:** Waste Materials.

LOCATION: Toilets and Kitchen.

# APPLICABLE HAZARDS/HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES:

- 1. kitchen waste (biological hazard);
- 2. bottles, jars, etc. (biological and sharp edge/cutting hazard);
- 3. cleaning waste. (toxic, corrosive).

# POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- 1. Kitchen waste contaminates work surfaces and food.
- 2. Inadvertent contact with broken bottles or jars results in injury.
- 3. Poisoning or injury from toxic or corrosive liquids

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

Waste materials are not cleared away and normal kitchen hygiene practices are not followed.

#### ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

Although there are no documented detailed waste disposal instructions all hall users are required to clean up at the end of hall use. Kitchen waste is therefore cleared away and disposed of in plastic bin bags which are placed in dustbins outside immediately following any event involving food preparation/serving activities. Bottles and jars are also cleared away and taken for recycling. Work surfaces are also cleaned. Normal kitchen hygiene practices are followed. The kitchen is also cleaned on a regular basis by the hall cleaner. Cleaning waste is disposed of on completion of cleaning activities.

# ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

None.

**SUBJECT:** Flammable Materials

**LOCATION:** Main Hall, Kitchen, and Committee Room (curtains/soft furnishings).

Outside right hand side of the Hall (Waste paper storage).

# APPLICABLE HAZARDS/HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES:

Flammable Soft Furnishings, Curtains, Waste paper.

# POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- 1. Ignition of flammable soft furnishings leading to a serious fire in the hall.
- 2. Ignition of stored waste paper stored outside the hall propagates to the Hall causing a serious fire.
- 3. Ignition of waste paper or cardboard in the hall

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1 & 3. electrical faults:
  - discarded cigarettes;
  - frying fat fire in the kitchen;
  - carelessly placed, or knocked over candles; or
  - use of naked flames or pyrotechnic effects during dramatic performances.
- 2. Discarded cigarette/Vandalism.

# ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

The curtains in the Main Hall and in the Committee Room are fire proofed and so do not pose a fire hazard. The kitchen curtains are not fire proofed but are on the opposite side of the room from the cooker (the main ignition risk in the kitchen) but are within 50 Cm. of the sink electric water heater and the microwave.

The upholstered chairs used in the Hall have been recently purchased (since 2001) and comply with current flammability requirements.

As legally required, the Hall implements a no smoking policy.

See Hazard Assessment 1 for electrical faults and Hazard Assessment 2.2 for cooking fires.

Waste paper for recycling in currently stored outside the Hall and was initially adjacent to the hall wall and under a wooden framed window. The two storage containers are metal sheathed with hinged lids and therefore should not be at risk from a carelessly thrown cigarette. However, these containers are not secure from vandalism, where starting a fire and leaving the lids open is the possible scenario. The containers were, therefore, moved to a location not immediately adjacent to the Hall building.

#### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- 1. It is advisable to consider changing the kitchen curtains or having them fire proofed although the risk is considered to be very low.
- 2. Include in the Hall Conditions of Hire the requirement for Hall users to prohibit the use of naked flame or theatrical pyrotechnics in the Hall without prior approval of the Village Hall Committee.

**SUBJECT:** Mechanical Hazards

**LOCATION:** Main hall, large and small storage rooms, front and rear attic storage areas.

#### APPLICABLE HAZARDS/HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES:

- 1. Stacked items (chairs, tables, etc.);
- 2. Heavy or Insecure Doors;
- 3. Heavy items on shelves or overhead.
- 4. Heavy items being moved or carried up or down ladders.

# POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- 1. Injury as a result of stacked heavy items falling or due to moving heavy items around the hall.
- 2. Trapping of fingers or hands in closing heavy doors.
- 3.1. Injury due to trying to lift heavy items onto or off shelves, up/down ladders to/from attic storage areas or while installing or removing lighting bar mounted lighting equipment.
- 3.2 Collapse of shelving and damage of other stored items or injury to people in the near by.
- 3.3 Injury due to items falling from shelves or from overhead.

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1.1 Items such as hall chairs, tables or stored items are stacked unsafely or attempts are made to manually move items which are too heavy.
- 1.2 Too many stacked chairs are moved in one load.
- 2. Children playing around open doors or wind blowing the patio or storeroom doors closed, trapping hands or fingers.
- 3.1 Items are too heavy to be handled by one person and/or ladders are unstable while items are being moved up or down.
- 3.2. Overloading of shelves in the small storage room.
- 3.3 Items on shelves are unstable or are knocked off the shelf.
- 3.4 Items such as lights on the lighting bars, suspended ceiling tiles, ceiling light screens are not secure.

#### ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

- 1. The Hall's chairs are relatively heavy and are usually moved while stacked using a specialized trolley. There would be some risk of injury if either too many chairs are stacked onto the trolley, or if too many chairs are attempted to be carried without using the trolley. When not in use, the chairs are stacked in the storeroom on the right hand side of the stage. Safe procedures for moving and stacking of the chairs have been established and implemented. Tables are relatively light and are not stacked and so pose little or no risk. The storeroom behind the stage tends to get untidy with a large number items stored in it. Access to the shelving is impeded.
- 2. The doors to the storage cupboards under the stage have relatively weak magnetic catches so that it is possible that the doors can come open or be ajar. These doors are quite light. Playgroup children could trap their fingers in these doors or other doors inadvertently left open. However, serious injury is unlikely. There is no built-in method of securing the patio or storeroom doors when they are open. These doors are heavy. A means of securing them in the open position is required.
- 3.1. The ladder used in the hall is new and has a stabilizing bar to reduce the chance of the ladder toppling sideways. There are currently no procedures or constraints documented on use of the ladder. The only Hall employee (the cleaner) does not use the ladder. The rear loft above the Committee and rear store rooms is used to store some items including plastic chairs. Access is via a standard loft ladder.
- 3.2 & 3.3 Shelves in the small storage room are currently used to store playgroup items and are sufficiently large and strong for this purpose. Heavy items are stored on the floor.
- 3.4. Lights on the lighting bars are adequately secured to the bar and also have safety chains should their attachment fail. The suspended ceiling tiles in the main hall while not particularly heavy are "loose fitted" (standard fitting for this type of suspended ceiling).

# ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Provide a means of securing the patio doors in the open position.

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**SUBJECT:** Mains Water.

LOCATION: Toilets, kitchen, cloakroom.

# **APPLICABLE HAZARDS:**

- Pressurized water pipes, and water heaters.

- Filled toilet cisterns.

# POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

Water leakage causing damage to the hall floors and fittings.

# **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1. Frost causing freezing of pipes.
- 2. Faulty taps or cistern float valves combined with freezing or blockage of overflows or inadequate overflow capability.
- 3. Leaking tap washers combined with blockage of sink outlets.

# ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

- 1 & 2. The Hall has new full oil fired central heating which includes a program time which maintains a minimum of background heating at all times during cold weather. The major part of the Hall was rebuilt in 2001 to current building insulation requirements.
- 2 & 3. The Hall is in regular use and has a regular cleaning schedule that supports the early detection, reporting and maintenance of plumbing faults.

#### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Establish a single point of contact for Hall maintenance and repair action. Post a notice to this effect in the Hall.

**SUBJECT:** Weather

**LOCATION:** Throughout the Hall premises and grounds.

#### **APPLICABLE HAZARDS:**

- Rain:

- Wind;

- Lightning.

# POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- 1. Rain intrusion or flooding of the grounds and water ingress resulting damage to the Hall and its floors and fittings.
- 2. Falling trees or heavy branches cause death or serious injury, damage the Hall, and/or parked cars.
- 3. Fire or damage to the Hall due to lightning.
- 4. Loose roofing material falls causing serious injury or property damage.

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1.1 Wind damage to the Hall roof or building structure during or prior to significant rainfall.
- 1.2 Deterioration of roof, gutters and down pipes, fascia boards or window frames allows rain penetration into the Hall.
- 1.3 Inadequate drainage, overflow of the ditch/stream.
- 2. Strong winds or lightning brings down trees or heavy branches.
- 3. Lightning strikes the Hall or an adjacent tree or utility pole.
- 4. Wind damage to roof slates or cement roofing sheets.

# ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

The Hall is currently in sound condition following the rebuilding and refurbishment that was undertaken in 2001. Maintenance of the Hall and grounds is regularly addressed at Hall Committee meetings. Volunteers annually maintain trees and boundary hedges. There are no very large trees adjacent to the Hall. There are trees adjacent to the car park that could pose a potential hazard to parked cars and people. Buckland Newton Village Hall in located in a residential area with fields behind and is not a prominent building likely to be struck by lightning. There are no significantly high trees adjacent to the building that would pose a lightning strike risk. There is no history of frequent lightning strikes in the village hall locality.

# ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Establish a single point of contact for Hall maintenance and repair action. Post a notice to this effect in the Hall

#### HAZARD ASSESSMENT No. 9.1.

**SUBJECT:** Building Characteristics

**LOCATION**: Hall Interior.

#### **APPLICABLE HAZARDS:**

- Stairs; - Uneven floors;

- Limited access areas; - Enclosed limited access spaces;

- Badly Illuminated areas; - Low doorways;

- Overhead Hatches.

#### POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- 1. Injury due to falling down stairs, tripping on uneven floors, falling off the stage, or banging of head, elbows, etc.
- 2. Entrapment whilst inside an area with limited access (by ladder or in a confined space).

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1.1. Inadequate lighting of stairs, rooms, and passageways with uneven floors or with steps.
- 1.2. Inadequate or no banisters or railings.
- 1.3. Low or narrow doorways or passageways in the public part of the building;
- 1.4. Insecure latch on hatch to loft storage area above the Committee Room.
- 2. Injury or illness whilst inside or entering or leaving an area with limited access.

#### ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

- 1. All spaces within the Hall that have public access are adequately lit and emergency exits are illuminated. Both attic storage areas have lights with switches located at the entrance points to these areas. There are no uneven floors or single steps within the Hall. The Stage is accessed by two stairways, both with banisters, however the stairs are illuminated by the stage lighting that has a switch on only one side of the stage. It is therefore possible to get onto the stage from the right hand side without having access to the relevant light switch although the lighting in the storage room that side of the stage does provide what is considered to be adequate illumination to the stage stairway. This stairway also has emergency lighting provided. Wooden safety railings at the correct safe height protect both sides of the stage. Safety railings do of course not protect the front of the stage. As a result, if young children are allowed on the stage, they could easily fall off the front of the stage or down the stage access stairs and seriously injure themselves. It is noted that the Hall is securely locked when not in use. It is therefore unlikely that any young children can gain access without adults being present. However when larger numbers of children are in the Hall, as during use by the Play Group, adult supervisors will need to be vigilant. The Play Group supervisors have been informed of this.
- 2. The kitchen is accessed from the main hall via a lifting counter with a wooden screen above. The height of this screen is slightly less than the standard door height. A very tall person could easily bang their head if they were not aware of this restricted height. Note: This accident has already occurred but with only insignificant consequences.
- 3. Both attic storage spaces are accessed via ladders. The front storage area above the entrance lobby is accessed via a stepladder, whilst the rear attic storage area is accessed via a ceiling hatch and loft ladder. Both means of access are restrictive to some extent. This poses some risk, particularly when storing or removing items from the storage areas. The ceiling hatch in the Committee room poses a potential hazard should it inadvertently release and open whilst someone is passing below, however, the latch which is installed has adequate positive locking.

#### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- 1. Consider installing a second stage light switch on the right hand side of the stage but this is not thought to be a significant hazard.
- 2. Use of step ladders and recommendations is addressed in Hazards Assessment No. 6 and the restriction of a minimum of two people being involved should also apply to access to both storage areas to ensure that if someone is injured or becomes ill whilst in either store area, there will be someone on hand to provide assistance or to get additional help. Training in first aid for Hall volunteers is highly recommended. A basic first aid kit is available in the Hall.

**SUBJECT:** Hall Grounds Characteristics

**LOCATION:** "Wilderness" area behind the Hall; Paved areas either side of the Hall; Car park and entrance from the road.

#### APPLICABLE HAZARDS:

Streams/ditches and ponds;Uneven paths/steps;Dangerous plants;Vehicle access;

- Adjacent Large Trees (see Hazard Assessment No. 8).

# POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- 1. Children falling into ponds or streams or flooded ditches and drowning.
- 2. Poisoning or injury from dangerous plants in the "wilderness" area.
- 3. Injury due to tripping.
- 4. Pedestrian injury due to being hit by a car entering, leaving or maneuvering in the car park.
- 5. Car collision while entering or leaving the car park.

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1. Unrestricted public access to grounds containing unguarded dangerous streams, ditches or ponds.
- 2. Unrestricted public access to grounds containing poisonous plants such as deadly nightshade, or injury due to brambles, nettles, sharp low branches, etc.
- 3. Uneven paths or unmarked or badly illuminated steps.
- 4. Careless driving /driving at excess speed combined with shared car and pedestrian entranceway.
- 5. Careless driving or bad visibility.

#### ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

There are no dangerous streams or pond within the grounds of the Village Hall. There is a small slightly boggy area with a little standing water that is currently no more than 4 or 5 cm deep in Winter. The ditch is relatively shallow and normally contains little water. There is no deadly nightshade in the Hall grounds. Nettles, brambles and overhanging dangerous branches are regularly cleared from the pathways. There remains some risk of minor injury from brambles or nettles if visitors do not keep to the pathways. Access to the rear of the Hall is now limited by a fence and gate.

Pathways and the patio area are level and most have been recently resurfaced or newly laid. There is one step in the path at the right rear corner of the Hall. This step is not considered to be a hazard as it is located at the new gate providing access to the rear of the Hall and is very obvious.

The Hall car park is relatively small, which results in cars generally moving quite slowly. The car park and entrance is shared with pedestrian visitors, however the road entrance is considered to be sufficiently wide for this.

Upon exiting from the car park, visibility to the right was limited by a tree, the Village Hall Notice board, and a road sign making a safe exit somewhat difficult for cars. The tree has been pruned and the Notice board moved to improve visibility. The road currently has a 30 mph speed limit.

There are no large trees near to the hall or pathways but there are two medium sized trees near the car park.

# ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

None.

**SUBJECT:** Hazardous Activities.

#### **LOCATION:**

# APPLICABLE HAZARDS/HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES:

- Working on ladders (See Hazard Assessment No. 6);
- Tree pruning/felling;
- Setting up and dismantling of electrical equipment;
- Maintenance or modification of the electrical distribution system;
- Use of power tools by volunteers during maintenance;
- Moving/lifting of heavy objects (See Hazard Assessment No. 6);
- Re-filling of Heating Oil tank.

#### POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS & CONSEQUENCES:

- 1. Injury or death due to falling from ladders, contact with cutting tools, or from falling trees or branches.
- 2. Electrical shock.
- 3. Leakage of heating oil and contamination of the aquifer.

#### **POSSIBLE CAUSES:**

- 1. Insecure ladders, chainsaw chain breakage or inadvertent contact with a running power saw blade or chain; unexpected falling branches or trees falling in unplanned directions.
- 2. Working on unprotected live electrical equipment or the electrical distribution system.
- 3. Overfilling of the heating oil tank or damage to the tank assembly during filling causing uncontrolled leakage.

#### ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION:

The Hall currently uses expert volunteers or professionals for all tree pruning, felling and hedge maintenance. Electrical maintenance in the Hall is performed by a volunteer qualified professional.

Heating oil is supplied and delivered by local reputable companies. The Hall Heating oil tank is new and is unlikely to be damaged by normal filling activities.

#### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Training in basic first aid for Hall volunteers is highly recommended.

# RISK ASSESSMENT OF BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL.

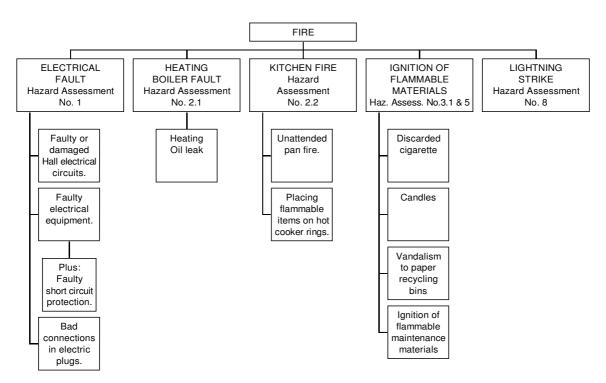
# **APPENDIX III**

# **RISK TREES**

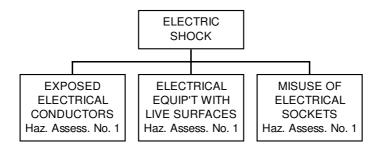
# **CONTENTS:**

- 1. FIRE
- 2. ELECTRIC SHOCK.
- 3. INJURY.
- 4. POISONING AND SICKNESS.
- 5. PROPERTY DAMAGE.
- 6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION.
- 7. LOSS OF LIFE.

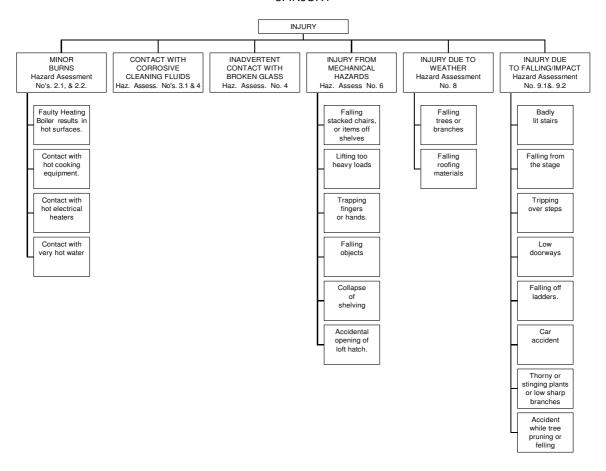
# 1. FIRE.



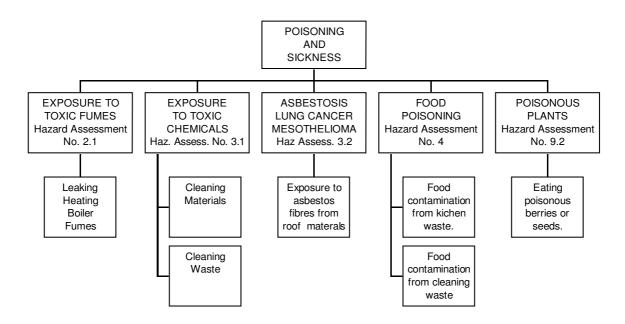
# 2. ELECTRIC SHOCK



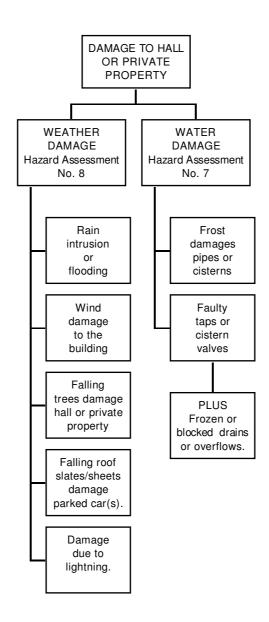
#### 3. INJURY



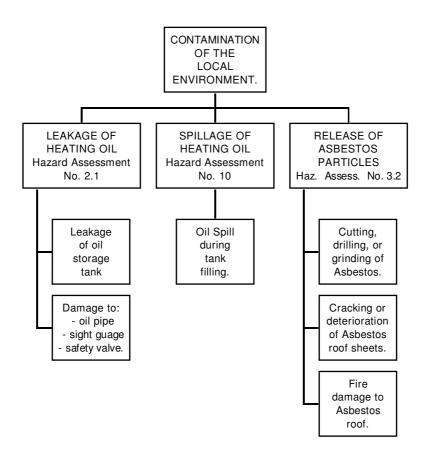
# 4. POISONING AND SICKNESS



# 5. PROPERTY DAMAGE



# 6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION.



# 7. LOSS OF LIFE.

