

News Release:

04 November 2009

FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY ACT TO HELP SAVE THE OLD SCHOOL
Local branch raises over £1,000 to support refurbishment drive

04 November 2009; The East Dorset branch of Foresters Friendly Society, based in Sturminster Marshall, has raised over £1,000 to support an ongoing refurbishment programme at the village's Old School hall.

The Old School hall on Church Street which was built in 1832 is no longer used as a school but serves currently as a meeting place for various community groups, including local Cubs and Scoutspacks in the village. The venue is of particular sentimental importance to Foresters Friendly Society with the local branch having held meetings there since its foundation in 1872.

The building, managed and maintained by the Mackrell Charity, has been in need of substantial refurbishment for some time and a project to renovate it is being driven by the local Parish. With current estimates suggesting that the overall cost will exceed £30,000, branch members of Foresters Friendly Society felt compelled to act.

Since 2007, Foresters have raised over £1,000 to help with the project through a series of activities including a sponsored walk, raffles and other social functions.

A final cheque will be presented to representatives of the Mackrell Charity on 8th December 2009 at the next quarterly branch meeting of the Foresters Friendly Society at The Old School.

Foresters Friendly Society branch secretary Michael Nightingale said: "The hall is no ordinary building; it has a value which cannot be defined in monetary terms alone. We are proud to be in a position to help support the renovation for it has been the spiritual home of our local branch for over 130 years"

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Foresters Friendly Society, which celebrates its 175th anniversary this year, has a long history of supporting charities in the UK. Last year also saw Society members nationwide raise more than £47,000 for CLIC Sargent, a children's cancer charity.

Michael Nightingale continued: "Foresters Friendly Society branches support a wide range of charitable causes across the UK as well as looking after the interests and well-being of its members."

"I've been a branch secretary for over 43 years and we usually donate around £400 every year to local charities from fundraising activities. I am grateful for the support of all our local members who helped with the fundraising and we look forward to supporting the refurbishment work in other ways too".

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

About Foresters Friendly Society

Foresters Friendly Society was founded in 1834 and offers a range of financial saving, investment, insurance and protection products, as well as educational grants and healthcare support for its members. All financial products come with the accompanying benefits of membership of the Society at no additional cost. There is no obligation to purchase a financial product in order to become a member. The Society currently includes over 70,000 members across 250 UK branches.

Foresters Friendly Society is the trading name of The Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society Limited, Foresters House, 29/33 Shirley Road, Southampton, SO15 3EW.

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Incorporated Friendly Society No. 511F. FSA Registration No. 110029. Foresters Membership benefits are not regulated by the FSA."

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