

Aldbourne Youth Council press release 21st September 2013

The community of Aldbourne is today celebrating the news that The Junction Youth and Community Centre is officially being opened by Mr Brian Kingham, a local farmer and industrialist.

The two buildings in The Square, Aldbourne were purchased by the Kingham Family trust and leased for 25 years to Aldbourne Youth Council for a peppercorn rent. The refurbishment and maintenance of the buildings is the responsibility of the Aldbourne Youth Council.

The refurbishment cost of these almost derelict buildings totalled £220,000 and was raised within one year thanks to Aldbourne Youth Council, generous donations from local residents, community groups and local businesses. Grants were received from the Garfield Weston Foundation (£10,000), Brian Kingham, Marlborough Area Board, Aldbourne Parish Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner Fund and Aster Housing in addition to £50,000 from the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) which is administered for the Hills Group Ltd by Community First, the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire. The North Wessex Downs LEADER programme, part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RPDE) also awarded £57,200 and Village SOS Big Lottery Funded £30,000 towards the second hand shop element of the project.

Mr Kingham said: "I am delighted to have purchased these buildings for youth and community use. Aldbourne is a wonderful village with a real and vibrant community spirit. Now we have a dedicated place for young people to congregate and enjoy a wide range of activities. This project has the unique advantage of huge community support. The Junction will be an inspiring place for young people to develop and to learn and to reach out for the fantastic opportunities the world has to offer."

Trustees and youth members have put together an exciting range of activities for all ages to participate in. Ukulele lessons commence 26th September, Cook n Craft, youth cookery sessions and an all about chocolate talk in November in addition to chill out evenings for young people. Dreamy Sheep Chocolate Club enterprise for young people age 15+ launches its first homemade chocolate today.

Youth volunteers are able to play an active role in managing activities at the centre from running the second hand shop to managing a holiday let or just chilling out in the new teenager's room. Profits from the enterprising activities will go towards running costs and maintaining Community Junction ensuring Community Junction remains sustainable for years to come.