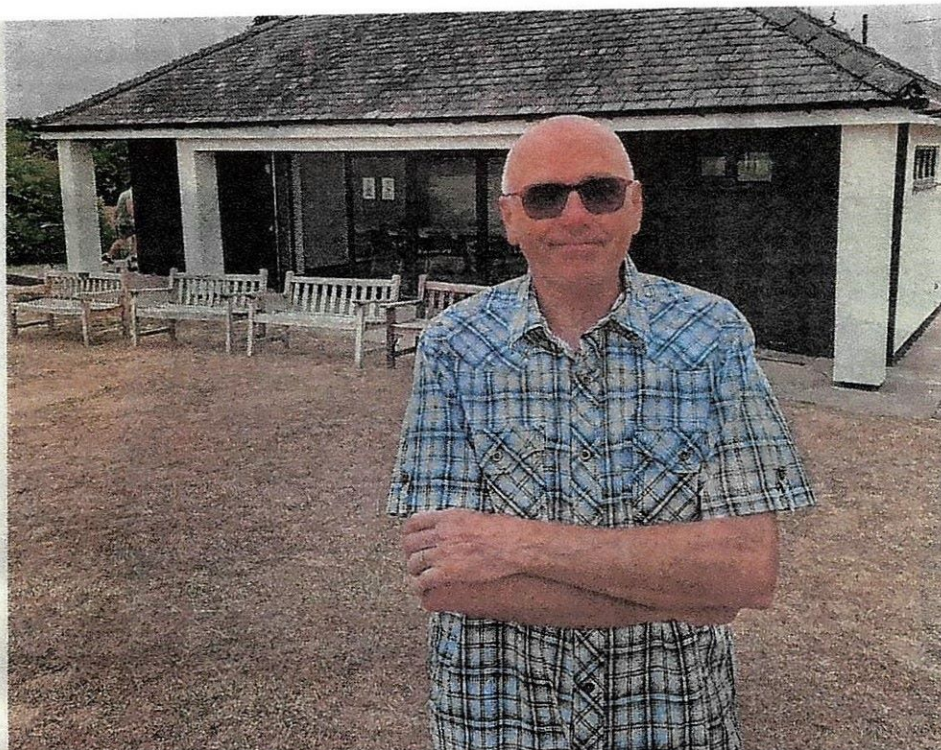




Major effort: Cllr McNamara put in huge amounts of volunteer time

Brendan's enormous effort brings village's pavillion back into use

Paul Whitehouse

A village pavilion - wrecked by a flood from a burst pipe - has been transformed to a new community facility, helped by the determination of a committed volunteer.

The change at Wentworth Community Pavilion has been so great that the parish council have moved in for their monthly meetings and it now provides improved accommodation for the cricket club and other users.

It has been made possible partly through donations from two village charities, topping up a payment made through insurance, to create the new-look building.

But the success was also down to Parish Council chairman Cllr Brendan McNamara putting in an astonishing 1,250 hours of volunteer time to oversee the project.

That dedication meant the project has reached comple-

tion with a tiny overspend of just £100, creating a combination of improved village facilities and healthy finances.

It is around three years ago since disaster struck at the pavilion, with a leak bring down the ceiling and rendering the building unusable.

Grants from Wentworth Amenities Charity and Wentworth Charity, alongside the insurance settlement, meant a more ambitious restoration could be achieved.

Cllr McNamara stepped in to oversee various stages, from raising the money, to planning, appointing contractors - and controlling finances - with the completed building now sporting bi-fold windows, a vaulted ceiling with roof windows, a kitchen, heating, and an umpires' room - an essential for Wentworth Cricket Club, one of the pavilions users.

The change was such that the council decided to switch from its historic

meeting place of the Mechanics Institute and its accommodation means it is well suited for a wide range of other activities.

Cllr McNamara said a deliberate choice had been made to employ a locally based contractor, G M Jones Construction, for the work and that careful decisions through the course of the project had helped to keep it financially stable, while maintaining the high-quality facilities which had been envisaged.

"I project managed to make sure we sure we had the money for what we were doing, and not overspending," he said.

He also stressed the project could not have happened in this form without support from the two charities.

It is expected the building will now be used for private functions and activities from local clubs and other community gatherings, as well as for sports.