

Upton's Jubilee Dance Festival 2012 held at Upton Village Hall during June

Over the busy Jubilee period, several street parties had been arranged in the Upton area as well as numerous Chester and national events. It was concluded that there was no additional demand for celebrations within the Village Hall – merely reserving it as a standby location in case of bad weather. The hall was in fact used by the Meadows Way street party on the 'wash-out' Sunday.

The Hall has a good sprung floor ideally suited for dancing and a stage that can easily accommodate a band. Children's dance classes are held in the hall but their progress is constrained by the lack of mirrors and barres. The idea was born to celebrate the Jubilee with a ***Dance Festival*** that would initiate the fund raising to install a 4m run of mirror and barres.

To cater for a wide range of tastes we settled on – a teadance, a rock 'n' roll night, a ceilidh and a line dance special. Unfortunately we had to cancel the teadance due to insufficient demand. The date – the Saturday immediately following the Jubilee weekend – may have been a key factor. Clearly because of the catering it would not have been practical to go-ahead hoping for several people to 'pay at the door'.



The other three events were all very successful with attendance from many local people who had not previously used the hall. The Ceilidh was restricted to 80 tickets to allow ample room for dancing. In fact it was sold out well before the night. The hall was well decked out with flags and bunting

and many of the dancers followed the suggestion of coming dressed in 'red white and blue'.

Both the Ceilidh and the 'Rock through the Jubilee Years' dances featured local bands. Response from the dancers was 'we must do this again'. Several images, taken by the public, are included on the hall's website - www.uptonbychestervillagehall.org.uk



Rock through the Jubilee Years with rock band '*Out Of Order*' and singers '*Nostalgia*'



We are grateful for the £100 grant from CWaC and the Duke of Westminster fund. This helped with our wide publicity campaign and decorations and 'getting the show on the road'. After a



highly successful festival we now have in excess of £1200 towards the mirror and barres project. Children's dance class concerts are now being arranged for the pre-Christmas period and should significantly bolster this fund. Early in 2013 we plan to submit an Arts Council grant and hopefully be able to install the facility during summer 2013.