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Villagers raise £20,000 for new football pavilion

IN JUST under a year, villagers have raised more than £20,000 towards building a replacement football club pavilion.

The money for Braishfield FC's new club house is being raised in memory of two long-serving players Alan "Rass" Fielding and Terry Whitelock, who died within days of each other in 2010.

In the last year, an auction, two evenings of 1960s music, a football fun day, a bike ride, a summer garden party and private donations have brought in £22,000.

Alan Fielding's widow,

Sharon, who is a member of the fund-raising committee, told the *Advertiser*: "It's unbelievable – people have been so generous."

Mrs Fielding said the cost of a new pavilion was likely to be in the region of £75,000 and the club was making grant applications.

However, she said the club was not eligible to funding from either the FA or the National Lottery, as they did not own the land on which the dilapidated pavilion stands.

She said the land had been "left to the village" and the

club was currently in talks with the parish council to see if the authority could make grant applications on the club's behalf.

The next fund-raising event is "An Evening with Lawrie McMenemy", on February 4 at Braishfield Social Club, with tickets, priced £15, to include supper, available from Sharon Fielding, on 01794 368164.

Mrs Fielding said there were also plans for ex-Saint, Jimmy Case, to run another charity auction, but a date has yet to be set.