

Bradfield Village Hall CIO – Annual Report 2018

This is the Annual Report of Bradfield Village Hall CIO – Charity Number 1180330 [formerly Bradfield Village Hall Trust – Charity Number 300129] of Southend Road, Bradfield Southend, Reading RG7 6EY. The trustees during 2018/9 have been Jane Gaut, Chair, and James Balsdon, Christine Evans, Tanya Galliara, Sam Grey, Paul Henwood, Antony Powell, Eva Roggenstein. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its constitution. The Trustees are known as the Management Committee. The trustees are also the managing trustees for the adjacent Bradfield Playing Fields [Charity Number 314297] on behalf of Fields in Trust.

The past year has been dominated by the revision of the original 1941 Trust Deed to become a CIO registered on 16th October 2018. The essential elements of the original intentions have been preserved but the new constitution is more appropriate for current day use. This was a very costly exercise, albeit an extremely vital one.

The re-submission of the revised plans to build a new village hall and associated leisure facilities on the site has also taken up considerable time in the past year. The Management Committee is awaiting the recommendation of the planning officer and the subsequent planning committee decision.

The Hall has maintained its level of bookings, with the building in use for around 70% of possible booking periods during term time and 48% of weekends booked. Sunshine Club is our major user, using the Hall every early morning and 4 afternoons each week in term time. Ballet, Bridge, Dog Training and Tai Chi continue to meet weekly; WI and Parish Council monthly and Gardening Club during the Spring and Summer months. Add to that the Pigeon and Rabbit Clubs based here, various dog clubs booking regularly and the annual visit of the fair ground, not forgetting the lucrative commercial garden furniture and rugs sales, the Hall itself is well used, although not as much as it could be. There have been two wedding receptions and a good number of children's parties.

An application has been submitted for a grant for a portable sound system and screen. Various groups have reported problems with speakers not being able to heard properly and it is intended that the equipment will be available to all user groups, including the parish council for this meeting.

The Watermill Theatre on Tour visited Bradfield twice, with productions of the very humorous black comedy 'Burke and Hare' and the contemporary adaptation of 'Jane Eyre'. Both were well supported and received many favourable comments.

The car park is used not only by Hall users and shop customers, but also as parking for the school at the beginning and end of each day. In addition it is well used by dog walkers, those using the playground and walking groups making use of the countryside around us. It has also become a favourite place for lunch; food and drink are bought in the shop and consumed at the picnic benches.

Part of the tarmac on the playground side of the car park has been repaired and some of the playground equipment received a coat of paint. The drain pipe opposite the shop parking was demolished by a reversing driver and needed replacement. The barrier protecting the kitchen continues to be hit on a fairly regular basis.

It is now 3 years since the defibrillator was fitted to the front of the building and it is good to report that there has been no need for it to be used.

Over the last 3 years, James Welburn has undertaken not only the bookings for the hall but also the many day-to-day repairs and problem solving. He has now decided to stand down and the Committee have appointed Emma Rolfe as his successor. The committee are very grateful for all that James has done to keep the Hall running so smoothly and wish to thank him for his hard work and support.

Thanks also go to Robin Evans, who has turned out late every night to ensure that the gates are locked. He also is standing down [and is looking forward to being able to go to bed early].

BVH CIO's income in 2018 was £28,682 but its expenditure was £35,454. The deficit of £6,772 drew on the reserves and resulted largely from the exceptional expenditure on the conversion of the Trust Deed and further planning expenses. The Committee were very appreciative of the grant from the Mayfayre towards the planning costs and the grant from Bradfield Parish Council towards the upkeep of the grounds. Thanks are due to both organisations.

Jimmy Balsdon

On behalf of the current management committee and all those who have served on this committee over the years, I would like to give a special vote of thanks to Jimmy. His name appears in the minute book in 1977 but I was unable to work out which year he actually started. He truly deserves a long service medal for all the work he has done to help keep this organisation running smoothly. Over 40 years' service to the Village Hall is truly remarkable. Thank you, Jimmy.