

## Bradfield Village Hall CIO – Annual Report 2019

This is the Annual Report of the 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 2019 have been Christine Evans (Chair), Jane Gaut, Sam Grey, Eva Roggenstein, Tony Powell, Paul Henwood, Tanya Galliara and James Balsdon. 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 of the adjacent Bradfield Playing Fields (Charity Number 314297) on behalf of Fields in Trust.

In May 2019, Jimmy Balsdon passed away, leaving a considerable hole in the Management Committee. How long he served on the Committee is uncertain, but his name does appear in the minute book in 1974. He has been greatly missed.

Sam is stepping down as Treasurer, but will remain on the Committee and continue to organise the Saturday market. The Committee are very grateful to her for all her work with the accounts and also to Eva who has agreed to take on the role until a new Treasurer is found. Tanya has stepped down from the Committee due to pressures at work, but is keen to help when possible. Thanks go to her for her contribution to the project.

Emma Rolfe has continued her role as the Bookings Administrator and has taken over the locking of the gates.

The past year has had its highs and lows, with much of the work based around the continued efforts to maintain a deteriorating village hall, gain planning permission for the plans to build a new hall, and finalise the transition from being a Trust to a CIO.

After a site visit by the planning officer and many meetings to endeavour to satisfy the objections that had been raised, on 30<sup>th</sup> October the application was called to Committee. To the delight of all the supporters, planning permission was finally granted.

Since then the Trustees have been working hard on the next stages in the realisation of the project; much of this is concentrating on trying to lower the costs as much as possible, through comparing different building techniques. A project manager needs to be found, together with more volunteers to help the Committee. In terms of fundraising, grants will be applied for once the Business Plan is updated; at present there has been over £300,000 pledged.

The Saturday market and a car boot sale helped with fundraising this year, along with the popular Watermill visits.

The car park has continued to be busy and used by hall users, shop customers, parking for school, walkers and those using the playground. The wear and tear on the tarmac means that it continually needs repairing.

The lease for the shop parking spaces has been renewed for another 10 years at the same price.

The new sound system funded mainly by a lottery grant was installed and successfully used by the gardening club and the WI, who kindly donated towards the purchasing of a better microphone. Thanks go to Phil Patrick for sorting it out and also for his generous donation.

The Committee were very grateful for the grants from the Mayfayre and from the Parish Council.