



Registered charity 504318

## **BRANCEPETH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019/20

At the start of 2019 we were saddened to lose past chairman John Morgan, who at the time was Vice-Chairman, and our current chairman George Gibbons. I am sure they would be proud of the way the committee has continued the important work running the village hall, and ensures it improves year on year.

We have welcomed the following new (and in some cases returning committee members) this year: Rev'd Anna Brooker representing the Church, Jean Merrington - Choir, Ian Stoker - Badminton & Snooker and Martyn Jones who has kindly agreed to be Vice-Chairman.

During 2019 we have implemented one of the plans announced when the new kitchen was installed, with a series of Sunday lunches. The aim is to produce for villagers – especially the elderly – a top quality meal at no more than cost price.

Also, during this year, we have a new PiYo exercise class running weekly, and this complements the existing Yoga and Tai Chi classes.

Building improvements include the fitting of self-closing fire doors and the installation of a much-improved sound system. We have also replaced all of the main hall chairs with padded banquet style chairs.

At the end of calendar year we undertook a large scale hall clear out of defunct items to make more space available for bespoke storage and to enable works to start on the revamp of the hall stage area supported by a grant from the County Council. At this time, we also reviewed, consolidated and reorganised all of our historical paperwork and provided copies to the Archives and History Group for cataloguing.

Plans for 2020 included the replacement of the 20-year-old stair-lift which gives access for disabled and elderly people to the main hall. We have an annual service contract with the supplier of the current system, and for the last 6 years they have been warning us that the system is now obsolete and spare parts unobtainable. We are grateful for contributions towards the cost from a member of BCA in this village and our County Councillors.

Wednesday coffee mornings continue to be popular, especially with those who are unable to travel further for social get togethers. Once a month PCSOs attend coffee morning as part of Durham Constabulary's "Police and Communities Together" (PACT) initiative.

Quarterly quiz nights are very well attended, as are the occasional dances and other social events in the main hall. Thanks to our social-secretary and helpers for making these events happen!

Our finances remain in good health and comply with charity guidelines with one year's running costs in reserve. Thank you to our Treasurer for expertly dealing with our income and expenditure.

Our AGM has unfortunately had to be postponed from its original date in March due to the current virus problems. However, the BCA website will include items of further interest, and any questions can still be passed to committee members.

Peter M. Aitken OBE  
Chairman.