

Brancepeth Community Association

Chair's Report - 2018/19

It is with great sadness to acknowledge that both George, (Chair) and John, (vice-Chair) are not here with us this evening. It has been a very sorrowful past few months and I know that we all miss both their contribution to our association and their friendship.

At this point in the AGM it is the chair who normally shares with us their summary report for the past year – highlighting key achievements, thanking committee members and outlining future key aims and ambitions for the continued running of our village community association. Unfortunately, this is not the case this year. On behalf of the committee, the following report tries to capture the key points that George would have wished to convey in his annual Chair's report.

Firstly, George will have thanked all committee members for their time, commitment and involvement in the BCA over the last 12 months with particular thanks to 'BCA elected officers': Peter, Secretary - Margot, Treasurer and Josie, Social-Secretary.

The efforts made by the whole committee this past year have continued to facilitate both an active village community whilst improving and maintaining our village hall building asset.

The following list summaries our key achievements made during the last 12 months.

- We received grant support from several organisations which have helped us progress our plans for the modernisation of our village hall. During the 2018 financial year we received:
 - £1,000 grant from the James Knott Foundation which we used to part-fund the purchase of Fire Doors in the committee room to improve hall health and safety and reduce our insurance costs
 - £375 grant from our local APP to help with costs associated with the refurbishment of the ladies loos – which has now been fully completed together with works on the disabled toilet
- We applied, in late 2018, to DCC - AAP - for a £5,000 grant to replace hall seating, improve the sound system and stage area – this grant has been approved and we have recently received funds. We will see the arrival of

the chairs and overall works completed shortly. We hope the new seating, improved stage storage and sound system will attract and facilitate more BCA events and external bookings.

- We have also installed new ambient lighting into the upstairs hall for more varied lighting options.
- We now have up and running a new Sunday luncheon club for villagers' to meet – particularly to help reduce isolation for elderly residents and foster neighbourly relationships – thank you to Josie & Mick.
- In June of last year we worked in partnership with both the Archives & History Group and Parish Council (PC) to host a celebration event to mark '100 years of voting rights'. At this event we raised £500 for BCA funds and helped the PC engage with local villagers' on matters of interest to them and also by facilitating a 'Peoples' Vote – where voters chose how £250 of their precept monies should be spent. The winning vote was to have more planters and flowers in the village and we helped the PC purchase and plant tubs to help improve the look and state of the village.
- We have continued support from the PC with an annual grant of £3,000 – demonstrating the value the PC places on the importance of our village community association and our village hall asset.
- We have improved the external appearance of the hall - with landscaping of the garden area and a new outside maintenance contract.
- A new committee member, Jean Merrington, kindly agreed to join the committee at the last AGM (and has previously been a committee member) and this has helped increase our committee numbers.
- A sub-committee met during the year and undertook a detailed review of our hall hire charges and terms and conditions to make the hall more accessible and viable.
- A review and refresh of our key policies was also undertaken to improve our governance arrangements and ensure we continue to comply with charity commission guidelines plus the creation of a hall contractors' list to ensure we use trusted, experienced tradespeople and achieve value for money on any building and maintenance works commissioned.
- Our BCA organised activities continue to very popular and provide a much needed income stream to the hall: Thank you to Josie and helpers

involved with hosting Wednesday Coffee mornings, Cinema Club, Men's' Social Nights, Quiz Nights & Curry evenings.

- The Xmas show was another great evening and, to help raise money for Cancer Research, we provided use of the hall for a festive fundraising event.
- Our BCA facilitated groups also continue to provide a varied range of activities and also significantly contribute to the hall running costs and include: Art Class, Yoga, Tai –Chi, Knit & Natter, Choir, Garden Club, Snooker Club, and Badminton.
- Our annual members' subscription charge remained unchanged again this year and with special thanks to Joan, for organising and collecting subs, which have contributed circa.£2,000 to our income when including gift aid. Thanks also to Gerry for managing hall bookings. Also, thank you to Yoga & Tai Chi for their kind donations - over and above their normal hall hire monies.
- With a more detailed breakdown of our Accounts to follow shortly from Margot, our total income from: organised events, regular users, ad-hoc bookings, grants and subscriptions for our 2018 financial year (1 Jan 18 to 31st Dec 18) totalled £14,448.

George will have summarised his report with future challenges and aims for the BCA. Our new Chair and the committee will discuss and prioritise these either or at our next ordinary meeting to be held in April 2019.

To finish this report, and using the same words penned by George in his last annual report – as they still very much apply: *“Also, massive thanks to everyone who baked, served, set-up, cleared- up, mopped, tidied, donated prizes or just came along to events and enjoyed themselves!*

Jo Dalton on behalf of the Chair's Report 2018/19