

BRANCEPETH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Chair's Report 2016/17

Our Community Association is managed by a small, but very active committee. Once again we have had a brilliant year of fundraising, involved our local community and had lots of fun along the way. The treasurer's report will provide a detailed breakdown. This year we have managed to raise just short of £17,600, which is amazing!

Our events calendar has been jam packed again this past year, with our usual traditional events, along with the addition of a few new ventures, including our new cinema club.

Special thanks to committee members, Area Action Partnership, County Councillors Olwyn Gunn & Fraser Tinsley and all of the businesses and individuals who kindly donated prizes and offered their support. Also, massive thanks to everyone who helped, baked, served, set up, cleared up and came along to support us.

Highlights and Challenges:

- We started the year with a number of electrical issues involving the recently refurbished kitchen. This resulted in practically a full rewire of the majority of the building to ensure we met required standards.
- Ensuing claim and retention of monies from the builder (who was now in liquidation) was handled and dealt with by our able and 'not to be messed with' Secretary Peter Aitken.
- We thanked Janet Malloy for her 3 years as Chair – and previously as committee member.
- The Parish Council agreed funding to the Village Hall of £3,000 per annum, noting it as a valuable community asset.
- Grant received to assist the BCA with works to include disabled toilet and refurbishment of side steps and handrail to hall area of building.
- Broadband and a telephone installed to ensure communication and develop other facilities.
- LED house lighting installed along with Cinema Club equipment and disco lighting in the main hall, all adding to the facilities and potential of use with the local community and other groups.
- An Art exhibition was a new event with over 100 pictures/exhibits, raising £500 for BCA funds.
- Good ongoing partnership with our Police authorities, with regular meetings and updates to villagers regarding crime in the area.

- A full review carried out of our policies Inc. Child policy, Risk Assessments and overall Hire Charges, Terms & Conditions and the introduction of a User Guide to the Village Hall facilities.
- At long last and hopefully to be well used – the BCA has refurbished and increased facilities in the ladies toilets.

Further Aims and Ambitions:

Another hectic but enjoyable year, building on our aim to provide our local community and user groups with a safe and secure building, investing in the facilities required by all age groups and types of users.

We will build further on our achievements and make full use of the additional facilities we have introduced to the Village Hall.

This will include -

- Development of a luncheon club for meeting other villagers.
- Cinema Club themes for all age groups.
- Develop and improve our performing hall area; stage and storage.
- Review and appeal for additional users of Snooker/Club room – currently underutilised!
- Improve our external appearance - Landscaping and maintenance.
- Continue to support and increase the voluntary organisations that use the village hall (currently 6) and ensure our 500 + users enjoy and have a voice in the future of the Village Hall.

With Warm Regards and Thanks to Committee Members and Volunteers., George Gibbons