

Report for the Bentley Community Association for year ending March 2020

This is an update from the Bentley Community Association, the charity which runs the Bentley Memorial Hall for the benefit of the inhabitants of Bentley and the neighbourhood.

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to hold the Annual General Meeting in the usual way. At the meeting we present a report on the past financial year, which runs from 1st April to 31st March, and summarise the finances for the charity. This article is in place of the meeting to provide a brief summary of the last year and the situation going forward. The full accounts are available under the News tab on the hall website at <https://www.bentleymemorialhall.org> and any comments or questions can be raised by emailing the committee at bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com.

In our last financial year to the end of March, the hall continued to be heavily used resulting in income of over £31,000. Dottie Tots nursery school continues to flourish with over 30 children from the village and surrounding area in their care. They also extended their usage of the hall to each weekday during the course of the financial year.

On a Friday, the Bentley Toddler and Baby Group in the morning and Lucy's Dance Classes provided activities for children but the Friday Art Group, which had used the hall on a Friday morning for many years, sadly disbanded in the summer of 2019.

The Pilates classes on a Thursday morning were as popular as ever. Evening activities included table tennis, FLEXercise, badminton, yoga and aikido.

In addition to the popular film nights, we continued to host various private parties at the weekends and also several of the cycling events held on they run their time trial race events between Farnham and Alton on the A31.

The expenditure on the hall in the financial year was almost £24,000. In addition to the usual expenditure on utilities, insurance, cleaning (for which we are hugely grateful to Nicola Beck for all her hard work) we also undertook some maintenance activities on the roof, the dovecote, the guttering and we continued with the upgrade of the lighting to LED fittings.

Thank you to all those who continue to support the 100+ Club for the Hall, which generated a net surplus of almost £1,000, which is great help in maintaining the hall for village community activities.

The charity was in a surplus position of £7,124 for the financial year to 31st March 2019.

Peter Clark resigned from the committee at the end of the financial year and we'd like to express our gratitude to Peter for his many years of service. We're always looking for new committee members, so please do contact the chair, Steve Fice, if you would be interested in joining us.

Of course, just as the year ended the Corona Virus pandemic hit us and as the report is written the hall is once again closed to all activities except for the Dottie Tots nursery school. We have made the hall a COVID secure environment and we look forward to welcoming back all our regular users as soon as possible.

The BCA Committee