



Beech Village Hall & Recreation Ground, 1 Wellhouse Road, Beech, Alton GU34 4AQ

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Registered Charity No. 301738

Annual report of the Chair of the Trustees

Presented to the Annual General Meeting, November 19, 2020 on Zoom

The Hall as a centre of the community

Our financial year ended on June 30, 2020, and it was definitely a year of two halves! The year got off to a really good start with all the clubs, classes, weddings and parties. We had seven monthly socials with delicious meals provided by villagers. Beech Gardeners held a successful village show attracting a wide range of entries. The October quiz was popular, run for the first time without a meal. Sadly, the weather was too bad for the annual Bonfire Night; the high winds and lashing rain made it too dangerous.



Great atmosphere at the October Quiz, 2019



Nick and Rosemary Ward won the Beech version of "Strictly" last Christmas

The Christmas Fair marked the start of Christmas with a great array of goods, children singing carols, and refreshments to tempt everyone. "Strictly" was the theme for the Christmas party, a great gathering of villagers with a super Christmas meal. In February, Caviste ran an enjoyable and informative Cheese and Wine evening based on wines from Italy.

The Covid-19 crisis hits

Then the coronavirus pandemic struck, and following some initial restrictions, we were plunged into lockdown towards the end of March. The full lockdown meant that the Hall had to be closed; suddenly, there were no classes, weddings or parties. Our social plans for an Easter Egg Hunt, a Spring Quiz and Jazz on the Green were abandoned.

Instead, Stella Charman quickly set up a Coronavirus Support Group, each member having an allocation of Beech residents to keep in touch with, collect shopping and prescriptions, and have a chat. We ran our first online quiz on May 8, with 32 households taking part.



We subscribed to Zoom so that villagers could hold virtual get-togethers with family and friends. This was used by 652 participants, who had 76 meetings lasting a total of over 670 hours!

In short, Beech did what Beech does best, and that is to look after each other.

Paul Fleming hosted the online Spring Quiz

We moved to Facebook for our 100 Club draws. So far, we have held eight online draws, which have been available live and as recordings, with an average of 130 views per draw. These have been hosted by the sitcom duo Stella and Nick Charman and Unhinged and Bracket (Jo Schneider and Jane Short).

Improvements to the Hall



Our kitchen has been refurbished and decorated

We took the opportunity of the Hall being empty to decorate it throughout and refurbish the kitchen, with a new range, taps and cupboards. Many thanks to Simon Hodgson, who decorated the Hall, Anne Whitaker, who project managed the kitchen refurbishment and researched and acquired the range online, and Dan Schneider, who did the work for a really low price, and provided materials at cost. Nick Sorby installed an auto-irrigation system to save people having to water the plants around the Hall regularly.

As lockdown continued, work started to plan for reopening the Hall in a Covid-secure way. Peter Cox, Richard Whitaker and Nick Sorby prepared the Hall to comply with the rapidly changing regulations and guidance, with a one-way system to minimise contact, guidelines for hirers and users of the hall to ensure their safety, and provision of anti-viral hand gel for regular use. As a result, we were able to reopen the Hall for a number of regular classes and private groups starting in July, and a Covid-secure wedding celebration was held. Plans are in place for larger, Covid-secure events when they become possible.

Developments since June

Fireworks

The annual Bonfire Night was re-planned in a Covid-secure way, but despite submitting proposals to the relevant bodies it was felt that it was too risky to run it in the face of clear discouragement from Hampshire County Council. Our next proposal was to offer the fireworks to villagers in return for a donation to the Village Hall. These were to be let off during a narrow time window on November 7, but a significant minority of villages were uncomfortable about this so we decided to cancel this idea. The fireworks will be stored carefully to be used at next years' annual bonfire following full consultation, so as to make this an event which allows people to be as comfortable as possible.

The telephone box

For several years, the old telephone box has lain unused and unloved until one of the young villagers, Katie Smallman, suggested "doing it up" as a book exchange. Nick Sorby managed this project with a band of able volunteers. This outdoor Covid-safe activity has provided a bit of fun and community spirit. The kiosk is now looking fabulous and will soon be ready to use. We have issued an appeal for donations to help cover the cost of materials; see Beech News and our Website for details.



Ash dieback

Sadly, like many areas of the country we have been hit by Ash Dieback, which affects a tree on the Green and many trees on the recreation ground. Again, Nick Sorby has come to the rescue, investigating the extent of the problem and the possible solutions. He carried out an extensive consultation with villagers and the conclusion was to tackle all the affected trees, about 30, as soon as possible, and then take the opportunity to rejuvenate the copse on the Rec. Nick has obtained tenders for this project and our chosen tree surgeon started work on November 13. After the felling work is done, Nick will coordinate the repairing and replanting of the copse, and he is hoping for a lot of help from villagers from January onwards. We are applying for grants to help cover the cost.



*Coming soon: the
Beech Book Exchange*

In talking about the recreation ground, thanks to Nick we also have some beautiful wild- flower areas that are becoming well established.

Our ash dieback problem is accelerating

Online booking

We plan to introduce an online booking system for Hall hirers from January. Kim Eakers and Peter Cox have been working on this project. It is already possible to see a “live” view of existing hall bookings and check for availability on the Website. From January, those who wish to hire the hall for classes or parties will be able to make a booking request via the Website, and the information potential hirers need will have been substantially improved.

Public engagement

We have endeavoured to engage with the whole community as much as we can. Pre-Covid, we started with the AGM last October, an advisory sub-committee to consider the kitchen refurbishment, and of course the various social events. Post-Covid, we have garnered views on how to deal with the Ash Dieback problem on the Rec and what to do with the telephone kiosk, as well as the fireworks. Lockdown has pushed us into more considered engagement, and has given a solid model for the way forward.

Public benefit

In the first half of the financial year, the benefits we provided to residents of Beech took their usual form - the monthly socials, the village show, the October quiz, the Christmas Fair, the Christmas party, and the Cheese and Wine evening. During the Covid crisis, we have addressed villagers’ needs for support and entertainment through the Coronavirus Support Group, the VE Day scarecrows, the online quiz, the Zoom subscription, and the online 100 Club draws. The new, free Beech Book Exchange will be ready soon. We have turned the ash dieback problem into an opportunity to turn the underused copse on the Rec into a much-improved amenity for villagers, although this will of course take time to develop.

The Management Committee and Trustees

During the year we have welcomed Richard Whitaker and Ingrid McCormack onto the committee, while Ruth Dewing resigned due to time pressures. Richard and Ingrid have both made a fantastic contribution already, with Richard looking after communications and working on the Hall reopening, and Ingrid managing the meetings and working with Stella Charman on revamping our policy documents.

I have to report that for more than a year, the Management Committee has been involved with a dispute with a resident of Beech, after his unsolicited offer to chair our Social Sub-Committee was declined in mid 2019. The members of both committees received a lengthy series of emails, many of which were unpleasant. A number of personal meetings were held and mediation was offered but declined. This matter would have remained private, but in July the villager concerned took this matter into the public arena by making a number of allegations on social media. This matter has been reported and accepted by the Charity Commission as a serious incident.

Your Management Committee has published our Constitution and management policies on the village Website, including policies on discrimination, purchasing, disputes, and our zero-tolerance policy on abusive behaviour. If anyone in Beech has any concerns about how we are running your Charity, we will be very happy to listen and address them, either during the AGM, or privately afterwards.

The future

We are suffering again under further restrictions, and more may follow, but we have proved that we can bounce back, with strong demand for regular fitness/dance classes and weddings. Bridge, Rustlers and family parties will take longer. We have turned many potential hirers away, some because they did not comply with legislation or government advice, others because the times they wanted were not available. The Social committee are ready with plans for social events, which may have to be a little different to those in the past. We just have to wait until we can make them both safe and enjoyable.

There are financial pressures. Thanks to judicious saving, our bank balance can sustain us for a while but the money reserved for capital projects, such as the redevelopment of the Annexe, is being eroded. We have therefore begun fundraising to support required actions



(such as ash dieback) and we continue to appeal for support through the 100 Club and donations. We are now using “Donate” buttons on the website to make this easier.

Our primary aim is to make sure the Hall survives the current crisis so that we can start our popular programme of social events, quizzes and parties as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we will continue to foster community spirit in any way we can.

Our sound system will be ready when parties start again!

Thank you

It has been an interesting first year as Chair – not without its challenges! I have been blessed with a wonderful Management Committee and Social Committee who come together as a strong and supportive team. Thank you to them and to the many villagers who have also given so much. Thank you to our team of employees who help us run the Hall and Rec – Simon Hodgson, Max Laney, Lucy Loosemore and Lynda West.

Last but not least, a big welcome to all our new villagers and we look forward to meeting you all at socials next year.

Dr Jane Short

Trustee and Chair, Beech Village Hall & Recreation Ground Management Committee
November 19, 2020

Treasurer's report

BEECH VILLAGE HALL INCOME and EXPENDITURE STATEMENT for the year ending 30 June 2020

			£	£
	Notes		30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19
Income				
Fundraising events	1		5,709	16,907
Fundraising 100 club	2		3,525	3,710
Hall hire	3		15,585	20,030
Total			<u>24,819</u>	<u>40,646</u>
Other income				
Bank interest received			4	2
Miscellaneous income			-	20
Donations			68	494
Grants			10,000	794
Rates Relief			1,835	2,621
Total			<u>11,907</u>	<u>3,931</u>
Total income			36,726	44,577
Expenditure				
Fundraising events	1		3,828	10,990
Fundraising 100 club	2		2,400	2,400
Property and estate	4		15,541	16,694
Depreciation	7		3,413	10,015
Other costs	5		5,550	6,074
Total			<u>30,733</u>	<u>46,173</u>
Surplus / deficit	6		<u><u>5,994</u></u>	<u><u>(1,595)</u></u>

BEECH VILLAGE HALL
BALANCE SHEET as at 30 Jun 2020

	Notes	£ 30-Jun-20	£ 30-Jun-19
Fixed Assets			
Land and buildings	7	319,559	319,559
Improvements to property	7	4,526	7,446
Fixtures and fittings	7	2,034	3,362
Total		<u>326,118</u>	<u>330,367</u>
Current Assets			
Bar Stocks		602	1,568
Debtors		151	985
Prepayments	8	6,000	1,208
Accrued income	9	- 0	454
Cash at bank and in hand	10	50,797	46,531
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		433	242
Deferred income	11	2,605	2,395
Accrued expenses	12	292	1,403
VAT		240	2,120
Booking deposits		900	1,750
Net Current Assets		53,079	42,837
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u><u>379,197</u></u>	<u><u>373,204</u></u>
Reserves			
Restricted reserves		2,100	2,100
General reserves		377,098	371,104
Total		<u><u>379,197</u></u>	<u><u>373,204</u></u>

BEECH VILLAGE HALL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 June 2020

	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19
	£	£
1 Fundraising events		
Quiz Night	1,001	2,982
Expenses	401	1,665
Net income	600	1,318
Bonfire Night	-	2,353
Expenses	135	1,393
Net income	(135)	960
Christmas Fayre	490	455
Expenses	81	72
Net income	409	383
Adults Christmas Party	1,467	3,486
Expenses	1,591	2,687
Net income	(124)	799
Summer party	-	1,838
Summer party costs	-	922
Net income	-	916
Easter Egg Hunt	-	44
Expenses	-	88
Net income	0	(44)
Burns Evening	-	1,254
Expenses	-	1,237
Net income	0	17
Wine & Cheese	675	344
Expenses	552	409
Net income	123	(65)
Social evenings	2,077	4,149
Expenses	1,068	2,516
P1	1,009	1,633
Total income from events	5,709	16,907
Total expenses	3,828	10,990
Net income	1,882	5,917

Net surplus from bar sales, included in fund raising, before stock write off costs:

1,017

2 Fundraising: 100 Club	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19
Income	3,525	3,710
Expenses	2,400	2,400
Net income	1,125	1,310

3 Hall hire	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19
Classes	4,889	6,259
Clubs	5,938	5,874
Commercial	415	533
Committee meetings	214	334
Marquee hire	-	167
Private parties	3,528	4,385
Weddings	372	2,102
Other	229	376
	15,585	20,030

BEECH VILLAGE HALL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 June 2020

4	Property and estate	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19	
	Cleaning / Check in-out	4,417	4,081	
	Kitchen supplies	-	73	
	Grounds maintenance	3,889	2,272	
	Maintenance and repairs	1,067	2,834	
	Insurance (mainly property)	1,210	1,219	
	Broadband	228	228	
	Water	24	342	
	Electricity	1,813	1,267	
	Gas	693	646	
	Equipment costs	100	715	
	Playground equipment	69	135	
	Rates	2,031	2,882	
		15,541	16,694	
5	Other administrative costs	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19	
	Administration costs	3,672	3,905	
	Licences	474	923	
	Print, Post and Stationery	67	397	
	Sundry	1,270	789	
	Bank service charges	67	60	
		5,550	6,074	
6	Surplus / deficit	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19	
	Transfer to/(from) restricted reserves	-	-	
	Transfer to/(from) general reserves	5,994	(1,595)	
		5,994	(1,595)	
7	Fixed assets			
		Land and buildings	Improvements to property	Fixtures and fittings
	Cost brought forward 01 July 2019	319,559	45,102	14,465
	Additions	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	2,392
	Cost carried forward 30 June 2020	319,559	45,102	12,072
	Depreciation brought forward 01 July 2019	-	37,656	11,103
	Charge for the period	-	2,920	1,328
	Disposals	-	-	(2,392)
	Depreciation carried forward 31 June 2020	-	40,577	10,039
	Net book value 31 June 2020	319,559	4,526	2,033
8	Prepayments	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19	
	Fireworks Stock (wax torches/bracelets)	1,652	249	
	Insurance	813	803	
	Kitchen Equipment	3,130	-	
	Christmas items (lights, table stands, buns etc)	92	156	
		6,000	1,208	

BEECH VILLAGE HALL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 June 2020

9	Accrued income	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19
	Gift Aid	- 0	454
		- 0	454
10	Cash at bank and in hand	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19
	Cash in hand - bar float	100	232
	Cash at bank: Current acct	47,873	44,979
	Cash at bank: CAF Gold Acct	2,824	1,320
		50,797	46,531
11	Deferred income	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19
	Hall hire	385	1,075
	100 club liability	2,220	1,320
		2,605	2,395
12	Accrued expenses (bills yet to come)	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19
	Electricity	281	110
	Gas	-	-
	Licences	11	-
	100 Club prize not cashed yet	-	200
	Maintenance	-	733
	Accounting QB	-	-
	Equipment	-	230
	Water	-	130
		292	1,403

Nick Charman FCA

Trustee and Treasurer, Beech Village Hall & Recreation Ground Management Committee
 November 19, 2020