

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2017

Trustees: Mr. John Meischke (Chairman) Mr. Ian Knight
Dr. Emma Waltham Mr. David Stock

The Board of Trustees had four formal meetings during the financial year and reported on its activities/key decisions during subsequent monthly meetings of the full Parish Council.

To meet the charity's key objectives, the Trustees took all steps to ensure the on-going maintenance and upkeep of the Nigel Poulton Community Hall was carried out.

The company cleaning the hall on a weekly-basis has been changed to Little Gems, the first four weeks were used to give a deep clean to all areas of the Hall; inside and out.

As reported last year, the boilers needed replacing. This has now been done and the showers have also been renewed, and we are already seeing a reduction in our heating costs.

The outside toilets (which have been subject to vandalism several times) have been refurbished and an Altro floor installed. We have also fitted a magnetic lock which operates on a timer. This work has had good reviews from our Parishioners.

An expected expense to replace the two external coin-meters (which control the floodlights) to accommodate the new one-pound coin was avoided because we were able to re-engineer the existing meters at no cost.

The on-going programme to make the facility more appealing to hirers, has seen the Pavilion decorated and the light-fittings replaced. New plastic easy-stack chairs have been purchased in both adult and child sizes. The tables in the Meeting Room have been replaced and a new First-Aid Station has been installed in the Main Entrance hall.

To help with the overwhelming number of books being supplied to the new Library we have allowed them to be stored in the overspill in the Changing Room loft.

We entered into the East Herts Forever Active programme to encourage people over 50 to get out and engage with others within the community and to try any of the activities that we currently offer; namely Table Tennis, Bowls, Archery, TaiChi and Yoga. This has proved very successful and has helped to bring in more hirers to the building. None of this would have been possible without the help of our volunteer helpers, known as "The Friends of The Nigel Poulton Community Hall"; a big thank you to you all.

With the help of the Parish Council, the residents of School Lane have persuaded BT to supply high-speed broadband to this area, so I hope next year to be able to report its success.

All the Community Hall's Health and Safety, Fire Risk and Emergency documents have been collated and rewritten, with new copies posted on the building's notice boards.

We will continue to make the Community Hall more appealing and update various facilities therein as necessary.

I would like to thank the Trustees and Mrs Jane Allsop (the Clerk) who have all worked to make things happen this year and last year. I am pleased to say all our efforts are bearing fruit and we are seeing the numbers of people using the hall increase dramatically. Long may it continue!

Report by: John Meischke