



## **Chairman's Annual Report**

Year Ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014

### **Hilton Hall Community Association**

Company Registered No. 06838077

UK Registered Address

**Hilton Hall Community Centre  
Hilton Road, Lanesfield  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
WV4 6DR**

**Chairman's Annual Report for the period: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.**

Welcome one & all to this year's Annual Report. This is the start of our fifth year at Hilton Hall and on behalf of the Directors & Management Team; I am glad to say "we are still here. . . and we are still working hard behind the scenes running & maintaining Hilton Hall and organising all of the community activities that are provided for the benefit of our local community. I am pleased to report on the following activities, events and state of affairs as they unfolded through the year (working in chronological order).

In May we were successful in our funding bid from the Spring Vale Community First Funding Panel (SVCFP) which paid for security cameras and Internet Wi-Fi to be installed at Hilton Hall. For the past four years, right up until now, all of the on-line computer work / internet access (emailing, web building & maintenance, etc, etc) has all been done at 'Home' (not at the Hall) by each member of the management team. This new facility has allowed us to work directly from Hilton Hall as well as providing wireless computer access to other community groups at the Hall. Many thanks to the SVCFP & Community Development Foundation for this valuable grant

Also in May (and in June), the HHCA Volunteers began work on cultivating the ground at the rear of the Hall (in the fenced compound) and planted 30 small trees along the Palisade Fencing. This will provide a much improved 'Look' to the rear of the building and once these trees & shrubs begin to grow, they will provide much needed 'greener' coverage (rather than just galvanised steel fencing) and will potentially provide food and natural habitat for birds, insects and other small wildlife. Over the next five years, our plan is to carry-out a programme of 'Shrubs & Tree Planting' – along the Industrial Estate side of the Playing Fields.

In July 2013; (on the 30th) the proposed BMX Track planning application went before the Wolverhampton City Council Planning Committee. This followed the two community consultation meetings held at Hilton Hall in March 2013, and a great deal of negotiation leading up to July meeting (between us, the Architects and Council Officers dealing with these proposals).

I naively thought the planning application would be granted quite quickly and work would go ahead shortly afterwards (this belief was based upon what we had been told by Council officials – who felt the project would be granted the go-ahead quite quickly and was just a 'formality' etc, etc. and it should only take a few weeks of construction following the planning decision). Unfortunately, this was not the case, because of slight opposition to the proposed track. One local resident addressed the Planning Meeting in opposition to the proposal and provided a petition signed by 12 local people, which momentarily delayed the Council's plans.

The Planning Committee therefore decided to defer decision until their September planning meeting, by which time the whole Planning Committee could visit the site to judge for themselves the potential benefits, positives & negatives, and impact on the community and surrounding properties, before making their final planning decision.

In July & August two Community Fun-Days were organised and run at Hilton Hall. They were both well attended. The first one was run by the staff from Windsor Centre for Children & Families and local families and children benefited from the many activities such as face painting, crafts and hobbies, book club and many other fun-based games. The other event was organised by Craig & Kym – our Spring Vale Community Neighbourhood Wardens, and Wardens from across the City came together to do a Fun-based 'Wider Community Link-Up event.

Also during July & August, right through the School Summer Holidays - The Management Team continued work on the downstairs section of the Hall, working indoors, preparing the way for plastering & rewiring, and making good the floor & walkways in the corridors.

On 3rd September 2013, the whole Committee (of the Wolverhampton City Council Planning Committee) came along to Hilton Hall Playing Fields for a 'Site Visit' to gain a better understanding of the proposal and following this site-visit the Wolverhampton City Council Planning Committee met at the Civic Centre and took into consideration the 80 plus letters, emails & signed names in support of the proposal and approved planning permission for a BMX Cycle Track to be build on our Playing Fields. Work to begin sometime in October / November?

Also in September we finally got to complete our Front Entrance. The job in question being the two Water Drainage Down Pipes (that take the water away from the Roof). They were originally 'Clad' in Steel, to combat vandalism of the down pipes, which proved most effective; however, we have had to paint these Steel Covers four time since we opened. So, it was decided to 'Clad' them in the same thermoplastic material

that was used on the Front Facia Boards. We have some excellent photos on our website showing this (and all previous work done) and can be accessed via <http://hiltonhall.com/photographs.htm>.

2013: October to December: We divided our time (over the last three months of the year) between general management and caretaking duties and working downstairs.

2014 January 28th: HHCA in partnership with BikeRight we ran a series of Bicycle Training courses. This five week programme covered specific areas of maintenance. The first week started with Safety & Cycle Maintenance, and the following weeks covered Puncture Repair, Understanding Gears & Brakes, as well as Cycle Rider Training. These sessions all took place on Tuesday mornings at the Hall and were completely FREE to those wishing to join us.

2014 February 18th to 21st: The HHCA Management Team (Debbie, Heather & Keith) spent their Schools Spring Holiday on a National Standard Cycle Instructor Training Course. This was held in Birmingham hosted by BikeRight Ltd. BikeRight! Is one of the first accredited Cycle Instructor Training Providers in England and is involved in development and implementation of the National Standard for Cycle Instructors Awards throughout the UK. And, once more, ALL of this was done at our expense, as unpaid Volunteers - for the benefit of our Local Community, and for the benefit and well being of our local Youngsters who will be using the BMX Track and facilities in the near future.

The main reason why 'we' (the HHCA Team) decided to attend this course was to become fully qualified Cycle Training Instructors. Our intention was to enhance potential cycle activity at the proposed BMX & MTB site (when it finally gets built). On this note: I am pleased to report that the Wolverhampton City Council Architect phoned me to confirm that work on the BMX Track is scheduled to begin around March or April.

We are looking forward to being proactive in all aspects of cycling (and cycle safety & maintenance) at Hilton Hall in the very near future in support of this exciting BMX Track proposal.

March 2014, just as in the previous four years, we have continued to keep the whole project afloat and are always striving to keep motivated and maintain the work ethic and generate the income necessary to achieve our objectives.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say the usual thank you to ALL of our Supporters, Funders and Volunteers – “Thank You” – and on behalf of the Hilton Hall Community Association Directors and Management Committee, may I wish everyone our sincerest “Best Wishes and Thanks”. Here's to the next twelve months and all that this will bring.

Keith Jones, BA (Hons)  
Director & Chairman HHCA