

## **HILTON HALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Private Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital  
Registered in England & Wales, Company Registration No. 06838077

Registered Address in the UK  
HILTON HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE  
HILTON ROAD, LANESFIELD  
WOLVERHAMPTON, WV4 6DR  
WEST MIDLANDS, UK.

<http://www.hiltonhall.com>



*HILTON HALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION*

### ***CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT***

**For the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

(HHCA Official Trading Year from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018)

## HILTON HALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Welcome to this Year's *Chairman's Annual Report* which I will keep to a minimum. We have also been informed that this legal requirement (of producing an Official Annual Report) is now no longer '*legally required*' by Companies House in this format. However, we have found it a useful means of recording and reporting our progress for our Sponsors, Supported and Community Groups & Sports Clubs who Hire Hilton Hall Facilities, so will probably continue with a similar Annual Report for next year too.

This is the ninth Chairman's Annual Report – Who would-a-thought it? Nine Years on – *Well Obviously We Did*. In fact, we had every confidence and intention that WE Would Still Be Here in 2018 (because we are determined and tenacious people who realized the answer to this project's success was based on 'The Long-Haul' approach, fuelled by Tons of 'Consistency and Persistency', and 'Bag-Loads' of serious project commitment & passion (not to mention lots of self-belief and obduracy).

Please accept this report as my opportunity to share with you all the important moments, occurrences and events that take place during a normal year's trading period. This report also provides continuity with all previous annual reports (between April of one year until March of the following year) forming our 'TimeLine'. I have not included the usual routine / day-to-day details such as opening & closing times, cleaning & general running repairs, just the unusual or extra activities & lettings that occur during this period.

But; before I list these extra activities in date order, I would like to '*Thank*' the Community Groups who support HHCA throughout the year and who provide essential sustainability for Hilton Hall. Without their patronage, help & support I am sure Hilton Hall would find it difficult to continue with our present level of community service & benefit. So! I would like to take this opportunity to say a BIG THANK YOU to the following groups who help to *Keep-Us-Afloat*. They are: Wolverhampton Youth Judo Centre, Lanesfield Senior Citizens Bingo & Tea Dance Group, Lanesfield Slimming World Club, EmilyClare Dance School, Tipton Town Youth Football Club, Gornal Athletic Football Club. All of these Community-based Groups provide a steady income that goes a long way to paying our *annual overhead payments & running cost's*. The remaining 'Occasional Lettings' income usually covers our ongoing repair and maintenance costs for the benefit of ALL who visit and use Hilton Hall.

During April 2017, the HHCA Team of volunteers continued with many smaller jobs around the site (no big work projects took place during the rest of 2017 – at least Not on the scale of some of those really big jobs done in previous years). Mainly tidying jobs and/or sorting materials out for storage, etc. But apart from one other main 'Hiring' on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May when the City of Wolverhampton Council hired Hilton Hall to host the West Midlands Mayoral Elections. There was no other 'One-Off Lettings' at Hilton Hall during April & May.

From June to August 2017, the HHCA Volunteers continued preparing the way for work on the installation of new toilets & wash basins (in the downstairs changing rooms). We've had the materials & toilet furniture for ages now in storage ready for someone to fit them. A couple of our regular Clubs closed during the Schools' Summer Holidays during July & August. And, unlike previous years, we did not have sufficient funds to hold or host any Summer Community Fun-Days.

In September, Hilton Hall was used for the Spring Vale Ward PACT Meeting. These meetings are intended for local residents to meet up with our area Police Team and representatives of the City Council Community Safety Team, as well as Staff from Wolverhampton Homes; to discuss local area issues and concerns. At this meeting attendees were informed that our long-standing Police Sergeant for Spring Vale Ward was retiring in October and a new Police Sergeant should be 'In-Post' by the time the next PACT Meeting is scheduled for January 2018 (and for him to introduce himself to the residents and tenants of Lanesfield).

In November, the Windows at the rear of Hilton Hall were bombarded and splattered with Eggs - thrown at the Windows from the Football Pitch. Unfortunately, Eggs leave such a mess on the windows and are so difficult to clean off due to the height of the windows (from the ground). This was more of an 'inconvenience' rather than serious vandalism, but nevertheless 'annoying'. We have no idea who caused this mess but I'm guessing it was probably executed by school aged children (as this 'egg throwing' is synonymous with childish pranks & trends).

In December, Lanesfield Slimming World Class held their very last session at Hilton Hall. They have been a regular 'Wednesday evening' hirer of Hilton Hall for over four years now and so apart from losing a really popular community activity, we will also miss the income generated from this activity. Hopefully, we will be able to find another community group soon to fill the gap left by Slimming World, but in the meantime we have a 'Hall Hire' vacancy on Wednesday evenings.

In December we saw the 'First of the Winter Snow'. . . Whoopie! Snow-Clearing on the Car Park yet again . . . and on the Entrance Ramp again (just as in previous years). As usual this task is left entirely to Debbie & I to keep the snow at bay).

Also in late December the HHCA Management team was contacted by Mr Ed Doyle from the CWC Architects Office informing us that they were planning to repair & refurbish the BMX Track next Spring. And he suggested meeting with the HHCA Team in the New Year to discuss plans to completely 'Resurface' the whole of the BMX Track with Tarmac (rather than the 'Shale' surface that is presently in place).

JANUARY 2018: During January further Snow & bad weather forced several Clubs to close – which in turn had a negative effect on our income (from Hall Hiring). This also meant yet another Roof Fix, as this latest Freezing weather damaged the Hall Roof. The big clue (that the Roof was damaged) was yet another internal 'Leak' from the ceiling. So, up we went again – onto the Roof in freezing weather to 'Seal' the Frost-Damaged Roofing Felt. Both Debbie & I ventured up the Ladders & onto the Roof again (and again, as unpaid volunteers) to fix this leaky problem in sub-zero conditions. We do not have sufficient funds available for us to pay someone to carry-out this type of repair – so it's down to us to get the job done.

On January 19<sup>th</sup> (Friday afternoon) the first PACT Meeting of the New Year was held at Hilton Hall giving everyone present the opportunity to discuss their concerns & issues with our local Police Team and with the City Council Community Safety Team & Wolverhampton Homes representatives.

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (when opening up for our regular Dance Class), we discovered the first serious Vandalism (in the nine years that we have been at Hilton Hall). Five of the Double Glazed Windows (at the back of the Hall – adjacent to the Football Playing Fields) had been damaged by stones or other hard projectiles - thrown directly at the windows. We have no idea who carried out this mindless vandalism. We obviously reported this criminal damage to the Police but unfortunately they said there was very little that they could do about this sort of crime unless someone actually saw who had caused this damage.

Also in February we experienced further disruption caused by extreme weather conditions (not just in Wolverhampton, but the whole of the Country was affected for several days with severe Snow Storms and Sub-Zero temperatures. This extreme weather forced most of our Clubs & Groups to close during this time which obviously had a negative result on our income once more.

Finally, in March we managed to get the Toilets & Wash Basins fitted in the downstairs Changing Rooms. This long-overdue work was organised in partnership with Denis & Michelle Robinson who recruited the help of Kevin & his team to fit said toilet fixtures & fittings. These items, originally donated by Bathroom City and one other Sponsor, have been waiting in storage for a couple of years now waiting for the right time and for the right volunteer(s) to come forward to put their time and skills to good use fit everything into place. RESULT: we now have fully working & functional Toilets on the Lower Ground Floor / Changing Rooms.

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018, work started on the refurbishment of the BMX Track. The Company who procured the contract for this remedial work on the BMX Track was *Clark & Kent Ltd* (who specialise applying Tarmac to BMX Track surfaces). Kent & his team started by cutting back the edges of the track and repairing the damaged sub-structure of the Shale Track – ready for laying a permanent Tarmac Surface to the whole Track. They said they are expecting to come back in the first week of April 2018 to lay the Tarmac and to complete the BMX Track resurfacing Job. I will keep you all informed in the next Annual Report (2018 / 2019) of their progress and in pictures on our web site ([hiltonhall.com/photographs.htm](http://hiltonhall.com/photographs.htm)).

The last couple of final 'jobs' that our Volunteers completed this trading year was to cut the Grass on the whole Area of the Football Playing fields (including the grassed areas in front & to the sides of Hilton Hall). This is one of the jobs that the City Council and local Councillors promised us that they would do for the whole term of our Lease – but when they *renege*d on their word last year, we continued with our own annual Grass-Cutting schedule at Hilton Hall Grounds. The Playing Fields Grass Cutting & Groundwork Maintenance is being done by Denis Robinson and Chris (& Team) as Volunteers – and we are most grateful for their support and work done by them on our behalf, many thanks to Denis, Michelle, Chris and team.

Well, that brings us to the end of yet another year at HHCA and so on behalf of my Co-Director, all of our Community Groups and ALL who benefits from this great facility, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to our success and survival in these very testing times. A Massive and Heartfelt "Thank You To One & ALL".

Keith Jones, BA (Hons)  
Director & Chairman HHCA  
31st March 2018