

# **THE ASHBROOK CENTRE TRUST**

## **Annual Report 2019 - 2020**

**Registered Charity No. 1161417**

The Ashbrook Centre is currently a Charitable Trust working to renovate the Ashbrook Centre building and return it to public use on behalf of the Parish Council. Prior to October 2019 the trust was being run by three trustees and had been operating under a lease from Derbyshire County Council who are the landlords of the building. It is the intention of the trust to hand over the running of the Ashbrook Centre to the Parish Council once it is fully refurbished and financially viable.

In October 2019 the Parish Council voted to change the composition of the Trustees and increased the number of trustees from 3 to 7 in order to provide structure and governance. The new trustees are focused on pushing the progress of the refurbishment and ensuring that available funding is targeted at the priority tasks to open the hall and realise income through bookings.

From October 2019 a monthly report has been given to the Parish Council Meeting and a clear record of funds spent and income received has been included in the financial statements. All contracted work has been subject to the governance laid down in both the Trust Financial Procedures and the Parish Council Financial Policy.

Trustee meetings have been held monthly from October to March and minutes published to all trustees. A full and detailed project plan has been published to the trustees and agreed.

The initial cleaning of the hall was brought forward by the new team of trustees to enable the hall to be used for the November 2019 elections.

Since October the centre has undergone a transformation and, from February 2020 has been open for public use.

The area around the centre has been developed into a well-maintained outdoor space with indigenous tree planting and wildflower gardens. The Parish Grounds Contractor is now based at the centre and has developed the area, largely at his own cost. The recycling of Christmas Trees and the composting of the Parish Green Matter from hedge cutting and mowing all takes place within the centre grounds.

The main hall has been cleaned and decorated and is now looking bright and cheerful. A request for volunteers to help clear the hall and paint was well supported by the community and trustees and enabled the hall to be ready in time for bookings in February.

The kitchen has now been completed and provides a facility for Hirings.

The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) has been cleaned and made safe and is once again available for bookings.

Electrical upgrades have been completed for areas of the centre that are open for bookings and the thanks of the trustees goes to Mr. Philip Rutland who volunteered his professional services free of charge to assist with this.

The first bookings took place in February 2020 with the Ockbrook and Borrowwash Women's Institute holding weekly chair-based yoga sessions in the hall, which has proved to be a huge success. A children's birthday party and a Borrowwash in Bloom weekend workshop has also been held at the centre

Understandably, bookings for the hall were curtailed in March 2020 due to the COVID 19 restrictions and this has set back the work to complete the refurbishment. Bookings had been confirmed for the Ockbrook and Borrowwash WI to hold their monthly meetings in the hall and make the centre their permanent home. Bookings had been accepted from Erewash Borough Council for May half term events.

Bookings for 2020/2021 include a trampoline Dance Class on Tuesday and Thursday evenings which is scheduled to start in July with appropriate social distancing measures and a daily Pre-school, which is currently awaiting OFSTED checks on the premises.

Interest and preliminary bookings have been received from a dance school and a Tae Kwan-Do club for use of the main hall.

2020/2021 is the year that the trustees aim to open the remainder of the hall. Plans to replace the front and side doors, upgrade the hot water system and the electrics are already being progressed. The work to refurbish the 4 smaller meeting rooms, the shower block and to replace the heating with an economic and eco friendly system are scoped and planned for later in the financial year.

Funding has been received from the Parish Council to assist in the initial refurbishments and grants are being sought from Borough and County Councils as well as local businesses. It is planned that the centre will be self-funding from Hirings by the middle of 2021.

The Trust Annual Report for the Charity Commission is now due and will be submitted along with the financial statements for the financial year.

The current Trustees are:

Major (Retd) Stephen Fraser-Burton	Chairman
Mr. David Steare	Vice Chairman
Mr. Terry Holbrook	
Dr. Margaret Barker	
Mr. Michael White	
Mr. Richard Locke	
Mrs. Jane White	
Mrs. Sarah Kitchener	Clerk to the Trustees

Maj. S Fraser-Burton

Chairman

For the Ashbrook Centre Trust