

Victory Hall, Dalston Annual General Meeting 2021

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Minutes of AGM 2020
3. Chairman's report
4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Fabric Report
7. Adoption of reports
8. Election of Trustees
9. AOB

Minutes of the Last AGM 10th November 2020 (via Zoom)

Chair	Mick Ryan (MR)
Note taker	Jane Clark (JAC)
Attendees	Committee: John Atkinson (JA) Geoff Graham (GG) Carolyn Hodgson (CH) Stewart Hudson (SH) Jenny Hudson (JH) Dougal Kyle (DK) Chris Scales (CS) Aileen West (AW) Members of the public: Barbara Sanderson, Sandie Denwood, Janice Faris, Trevor Wright, Graham Holliday
Apologies	Ann Byers Geoff Coe
1 Chairman's Welcome	
MR introduced himself welcomed everyone to the meeting. He particularly thanked the members of the public who had attended	
2 Minutes of AGM 25/3/2019	
Proposed as correct by CH seconded by SH	
3 Chairman's report	
Contained in document circulated MR noted that the hall was currently closed again because of the COVID pandemic but that he was positive about the future of the hall. He noted that the hall is now in a good state of repair and looked forward to a time when the it could be used again in the 'new normal'	
4 Secretary's Report	
Contained in document circulated JAC had noted that much had changed since the reports were drafted. The committee had continued to meet and much work had been done to make the hall 'covid secure'	
5 Treasurer's report	
Contained in document circulated GG thanked AW and Trevor Smith for their help with billing and preparation of the accounts. He noted that the projections in the full accounts were made before COVID. He felt that despite this the hall was still on a good financial footing with all the bills paid and a current reserve of around £48K	
5 Fabric Report	
Contained in document circulated MR noted that since the report the boundary wall had been replaced. This plus some drainage work would improve flood resistance. It was planned to replace the stage curtains and provide cushions in the main hall but this was on hold while the hall was not being used	
6 Adoption of reports	
It was proposed by MR, seconded by JA and agreed unanimously that the above reports be accepted	
7 Election of trustees	
All the Trustees had agreed to stand again MR noted that there are vacancies on the committee and invited anyone interested to get in touch with him. Sandie volunteered to be a link for the Drama club until a member can be appointed to the committee Proposed by CH seconded by SH agreed unanimously	
8 AOB	
1 COVID MR noted that hall is currently 'COVID secure' and that three groups had been using it since September. The hall had to close on 5 th November 2020 with further lockdown restrictions. ACTcumbria were providing village halls with useful webinars and advice 2 Graham Holliday asked if there was Wi-Fi in the hall make the hall more attractive to businesses. MR responded that there is no Wi-Fi at the moment and that mobile coverage is not good either. Wi-Fi had been considered but would be relatively expensive to install at the hall MR again thanked the members of the public for attending and closed the meeting	

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Reports for the year March 2020- February 2021

Chairman's Report

A very unusual year due to the Covid pandemic has meant that the hall was forced to close for long periods of time, however during the closures and the brief open periods, the committee have still been hard at work to make the hall "fit for purpose" in the Covid world, thanks to everyone.

There have been many changes to government regulations and guidelines as the pandemic has progressed and we have had to keep on top of the rapidly changing situation to ensure compliance and be ready to reopen whenever possible. We have welcomed a few user groups back in the hall and are looking forward to being fully opened up for everyone in the near future.

I want to thank all our users for the support and understanding they have given us through this awful time and hopefully things will get back to some sort of normal in the not too distant future.

Michael Ryan

Secretary's report

The year began with 12 members of the committee. Jim Callow and Alfred Brown resigned in August 20. The committee are very grateful for their many years of service. The arrival of the Coronavirus in March 2020 had a serious impact on the ability of the committee to meet. Only one meeting occurred at the hall. The committee agreed that 'virtual' and video conference meetings would be accepted as formal meetings. There was one 'virtual' meeting conducted in April 2020 and 3 meetings via Zoom. This gave a total of 5 meetings with an average attendance of 85% of those who were members at the time of the meeting.

Much of the discussion at the meetings revolved around the ups and downs of the Covid 19 pandemic. The hall was open and then only in a limited way during September, October and December 2020, being closed for the remainder of the year. Much discussion and work went on around the arrangements for reopening in Covid secure way and the insurance and other implications of being closed. Communication with former regular users became important in the hope that they would return when restrictions eased.

Despite the challenges of adapting to a new way of life and vocabulary (Zoom, Lockdown, social distancing etc), the committee was not idle during the year. The hall was prepared for all that Covid could require of it. The boundary wall was fortunately rebuilt before the waters rose in the show field in January 2021. A new website was commissioned and Wifi installed at the hall.

The year has reminded us that we can take nothing for granted and can no longer plan ahead too far. However, the committee can be proud of the way that it has risen to the challenges and worked in a cohesive way to ensure that the Hall remains in good order and is ready and waiting for the post Covid era.

Jane Clark

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Treasurer's Report

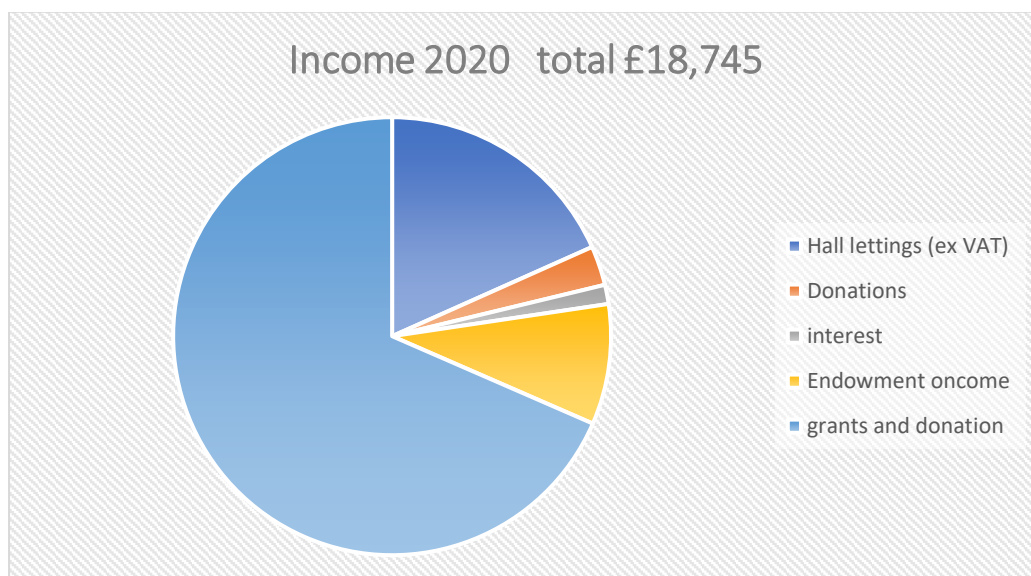
The Hall was closed from mid-March to mid-September as a result of government restrictions, with hall lettings for the year being severely constrained. All costs were examined and either eliminated or reduced in order to balance the books.

The net outcome from lettings for the year was a deficit of £2,384.28, which was more than covered by the receipt of two Covid-19 grants amounting to £11,334. The project to update the Hall's facilities was completed during the year. £29,915.75 was paid in the year bringing the total cost of the project to £354,744.22. Overall, the decision to become registered for vat, allowed the Hall to recover vat of £67,496.62 and reduce the cost of the project by the same amount. Since registration on 1/5/19 the Hall has paid £990.36 vat on letting income less costs, reducing the gain on registration at 31/12/20 to £66,506.26.

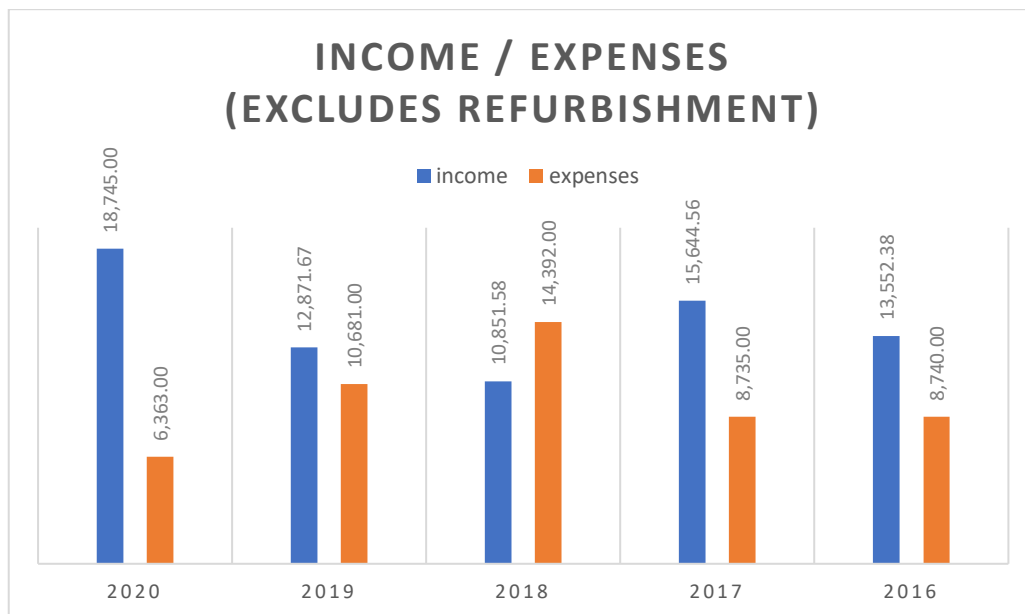
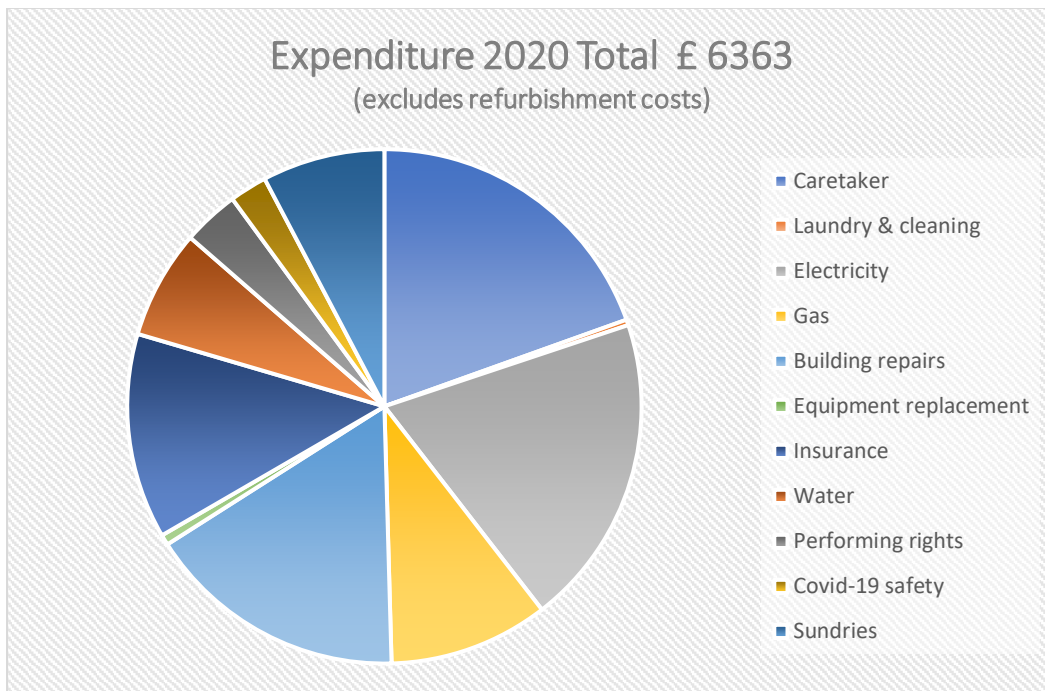
The project was financed by cash funds on deposit, the sale of the Glave Hill car park, grants received and the sale of all the units in the Endowment Fund. At the year end the balance on the Cumberland BS current account was £50,160.43 and the Trustees are currently investigating options for the re-investment of £40,000 of this balance

Geoff Graham Jan 21

The full accounts are available if required but the attached charts show a breakdown of the figures in an easier format.



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Fabric / Refurbishment Report

As has been said already the refurbishment project phase 1 has been successfully completed on time and on budget, thank you again to all those involved with this.

Refurbishment phase 2 – rebuilding the boundary wall

This work to rebuild the boundary wall was completed during the covid hall closure period. We now have a secure and flood resistant perimeter wall which has already proved its worth protecting the hall from flooding during the heavy rainfall in January 2021. Some improved surface water drainage work was also completed at the same time.

The mandatory 5 year electrical tests were carried out, 2 old fuse boards replaced to comply with the latest electrical regulations and extra socket outlets have been installed in the main hall.

Wifi facilities have been installed and a new website developed after a successful bid for National Lottery Connecting Communities funding grant.

A special thank you goes to **John Atkinson** for all his time and hard work interpreting the guidelines and making the building "Covid secure" such as providing multiple hand sanitising stations, socially distance floor and wall markings, warning notices etc.

There are still improvements to be made to the hall and the committee are looking at funding sources to enable repairs the Social Room roof, improve stage access, renew the stage curtains and provide cushions in the main hall.

Michael Ryan