**AGM 2022-2023 – Chairman’s Report.**

**Building and Maintenance**

* The outside timber on the carpark side of the main hall has been renewed with shiplap boarding, membrane, and insulation. Thank you to Robbie Burn who finished off with the painting.

* Drains remain problematic, the system required to be flushed out thoroughly by a drainer.

* There are only three actions recommended on the 5-year Building Condition in 2023.  Some isolated repair to the Welsh slate tiles, Metal drainpipes repaired, Mineral chippings on the main hall flat roof are becoming sparse.

**Administration**

I would like to thank all the Trustees who work as a team for the benefit of the community, Julia Simpson for keeping a good eye on our finances, Jacqui Knighton as secretary.  Caz Cole - Fire Assessments.  Noreen Birnie - Safety Assessments.  Kate Alport - Policies up to date and Mary Wealleans for maintaining the planters and providing the hanging baskets.

**Hallmark** The hall was due to be assessed on Hallmark 1,2 and 3 in 2022 but Covid put everything on hold which Louise Currie at CAN had a bit of a backlog. There has been changes to Hallmark 1 and 2.  Hallmark 2 now includes Access, energy, and environmental audits.  As soon as we can arrange a date to have the reassessment we will.

**Benefit of the Community**

Our committee continue to work closely with Hedgeley Women’s Institute, in November the hall was booked for refreshments after the Remembrance Day service. Then in May, King Charles 111 Coronation celebrations were held at the hall, over seventy-two people attended.  There was a real social feel to the event.

* Last August a **“Shades of** **Summer**” event was held in the hall working with Ageing Well, bringing together a group of organisations to offer support and information to help adults stay fit, active, connected and well. There was support and advise on entitlement andapplying to claim for such things as Attendance allowance, aBlue Badge.  Plus, advice on Scam Awareness.
* The Book Box, sited by Glendale Connect. Still runs virtually by itself, enhancing what the Breamish Hall offers to our community.
* **“Crafty Cookies”** sessions continue once a month, there are ten children attending the sessions from Branton Community Primary School.  The ages range between four and nine.

The children expressed an interest that they would like to spend time in the summer doing fun activities where the children and parents could get together.  With the cost-of-living increasing, families struggled to afford to entertain the children during the holidays, we secured funding from the Ballinger Trust enabling us to organize a trip to the Northumberland Zoo with no charge to attend and included travel, entrance, and lunch.  We arranged, during the holidays for families a day creating pizzas, which they had for lunch and crafts for the children. Also, an Apple Day Event, encouraging the children and parents to bring along their apples for juicing under Richard Evans supervision.

We were concerned about our finances and would be able to carry on as our funding was running low.  David Penny agreed to sponsor the cooking classes this year and donated £300 and the school how pay for the hire of the Hall.  Moving forward we would continue experimenting with new flavours and ingredients.

* **Warm Hub Lunches** are doing well and attracting more residents locally and from as far as Cornhill.

Thank you to Doreen Burn, Simon Price, Kay Wilkinson, Richard Syds, Jan and Peter Johnson, Noreen Birnie, Therisa Powell, Sam Frater.

* **Our Regular Groups**

**The Line Dancing**

**North Northumberland Spinners**

**Kettlercise**

**Cheviot & Canine Society**

**Hedgeley Women’s Institute**

Continue to be well attended.

**Powburn Bowls** are on a break now but back in September.

**Heritage Project**

The Breamish Hall Heritage Project in association with:

Community Action Northumberland and the Northumberland Archives

National Lottery Heritage Fund started in 2021, our aim was to preserve, record and share the heritage of the Breamish Hall for the benefit of the community it serves.  With Graham Williamson’s assistance we achieved our objective in collating 125 years history from 1897 when the Jubilee Hall, West Hedgeley.  All the information is available on the website.

As Julia mentioned we were granted £300 enabling us to purchase an interpretation board, a timeline of the Breamish Hall, printing of selected photographs and documents to be used as ‘display items. These are stored safely and can be used again for example, requests for a presentation/talk delivered to groups such as the local history society, Women’s Institutes etc

**Future:**

* As an Emergency Centre without power when storm Arwen struck in November 2021 it was frustrating not to be able to open our doors so residents could come to receive assistance, hot food, and drinks.

Before we started looking for funding for a generator, we actively obtained guidance on what we would need.  In the event of a power outage, it would be unlikely that everything would need to be switched on thus requiring a smaller generator.  A generator size of around 15 to 20Kw would cover our needs in the event of a power cut. A new generator of the size recommended would be in the region of £7000 to £8000 + vat

Fortunately, Alncom  contacted our Secretary in December 2022, to enquire if our committee would consider allowing them to install a generator for use as emergency back up. That in the event of a power failure, the generator is to provide backup power for the hall & their broadband.

**The generator and cage are at their warehouse awaiting for instalation.**

* As part of an ongoing project with CAN and The Rural Design a  project will install solar PV panels onto the roofs of community buildings across rural Northumberland alongside battery storage. We expressed an interest; we have had the feasibility study carried out and waiting for the outcome.

* We will be following the 5-year Survey recommendations report, continuing to maintain the building.
* Continue to review our “Wishlist”.
* Recently we held a coffee & craft morning in The Breamish Hall, and it was well attended by adults and children of different age groups. The activities supplied for the younger children were fantastic.

Parents appreciated the fact they were able catch up with friends while the children were busy with the fun activities, but the event highlighted older children were being excluded from the type of crafts available.

The children expressed an interest which I thought was interesting, during events such as the coffee mornings, they don't have anywhere to sit comfortably and chat together. This results in them 'hanging out' in the toilets! Which is, of course, not the nicest or most hygienic place to spend time!

We invited parents to talk to their children to gauge their thoughts on what they would like to see happen at the hall.

We feel it would be a fantastic idea to provide a space for older children. We have an area we had planned for an office, but now feel it will be ideal for 9-year-olds and up.

Having this space would encourage them to attend events more enthusiastically.

 Because of this and after discussing with parents and the community we have managed to obtain a grant of £1000 from the Ballinger trust to reorganise the small office into a meeting area for this age group.  After receiving a quote for cupboards and shelfing which exceeds the grant we will need to reassess and look for further funding.

There is very little for them to do in this area and something geared towards them would benefit both the children and the hall. A once-weekly get-togethers will offer a safe environment for the young people of Powburn and surrounding areas, to enjoy social activities and access unbiased information and advice. We would aim to inspire young people to fulfil their potential, to improve their life opportunities, develop positive relationships with others and contribute positively to society and their local community.

* **Next year 2024 will be the hall 50 year.**