

Brookwood Memorial Halls

Registered charity number 304981

Report for the year ending 31st December 2013

The Halls are managed by a Committee constituted under a Deed of Trust dated 20th February 1950 for the benefit of all Brookwood residents. The entirely volunteer Management Committee is appointed each April at the Annual General Meeting. It comprises 4 members elected by qualifying inhabitants and up to 14 members representing recognised Village organisations. A further 6 members may subsequently be co-opted by the Management Committee to represent other local interests. All Management Committee members serve for a year. Co-opted members serve until the following AGM. The Management Committee throughout the year comprised Mr. J. Thornton (Chairman), Mrs. J. Gable (Secretary), Mr. A. Male (Treasurer), Mrs. M. Cook, Mr. A. Gray, Mr. N. Gair and Mr C. Greenwood (also voluntary Lettings Agent). The Hall's banker is the Charities Aid Foundation, West Malling, Kent. We maintained financial reserves throughout the year adequate to remain solvent in case the Halls become unlettable whilst major insured damage is repaired. We review this policy annually.

During 2013 the Halls were again actively used by a diverse range of activities and groups of all ages. The annual Remembrance Day service led by St Saviour's Church was again well supported. We manage our expenditure tightly, whilst improving again our reserves for major improvements. Hire rates have been kept at a fair level to cover our ever-increasing costs and to build up our reserves, with concessions for local and charitable uses. Work during the year focussed on maintenance of trees, boilers, drains, lighting and utility services. We installed a new weatherproof notice board, and strengthened our security arrangements following arson attacks early last year against to nearby halls. Our neighbours fences suffered storm damage early and late in the year. Some panels remain unrepaired and continue to represent a fall hazard to our hirers, especially children. We have pointed this out to the neighbours and asked them to take appropriate measures. We can not take on liability for our twenty-four neighbours fences, which were all erected by the developers or owners of the adjacent residential properties. The Management Committee recognise our responsibility to keep the Hall grounds safe for our hirers, and we will continue to fulfil this aspect. Any necessary funds we spend on doing this, diminishes our ability to maintain and improve the Hall facilities for the benefit of the entire village. We encourage our neighbours to fulfil their responsibilities.

The objects of our Trust are to maintain, improve and provide the facilities of the Halls to the benefit of the inhabitants of Brookwood and its immediate vicinity without discrimination. Our volunteers have again delivered on this trust diligently and sincerely. I remain proud to represent them and applaud their efforts on your behalf. I thank them, their groups and our supporters in helping us to achieve the provision of a safe, well used, accessible and valued village resource.

John Thornton, Chairman
on behalf of the Management Committee, Brookwood Memorial Halls

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