

**The urban
village hall
in the heart
of Loughborough**

Annual Report 2018-19

FCA

Fearon
Community
Association

Key achievements

11% increase in the number of groups operating from Fearon Hall

39,735 touchpoints provided for local people to engage with social, recreational and educational activities

4300 hours of volunteer support

£3,737 increase in room hire income

4258 drinks, snacks and hot meal served from our community café

£10,000 of new funding secured for café manager

31% increase in community café takings

245 regular sessions provided for children

View from the Chair

The last 12 months have been all about consolidation.

As with any growing organisation we have to continually reflect and improve on our governance structure to ensure we are fit for purpose and meeting the challenges of the ever changing social and economic climate.

Over the course of the year we have created a clear strategic calendar to ensure we are focused on delivering in all areas of governance effectively and at the right time. We have reviewed and updated our policies and procedures making them suitable for a community centre that is growing year on year and has ambitious plans for the future.

Our Centre Manager Meg continues to provide the day-to-day leadership required but we, as trustees, have to give her and her team more support to allow for our continued growth and to meet the needs of our increasing and diverse user groups.

We have successfully secured funding for a Café Manager and an Activities Coordinator and have increased the number of volunteers offering their services to the Hall. We look forward to seeing the benefits of these new recruits in the future.

As well as our investment in people we have also been giving the Hall a welcome refresh with a refurbishment to the toilets and redecoration throughout. We have also been successful in agreeing a match fund upgrade to our kitchen which we hope to realise in 2019/2020.

All of this hard work culminated in our first properly organised open day which was a great success in reaching more communities and bringing new users into the building.

We are also delighted to welcome back Charnwood Arts to the Hall and are looking forward to developing joint projects with them in the future.

I would like to end on a number of well earned thanks:

- To my fellow trustees who provide time and wisdom in governing the Association.
- To our wonderful volunteers who donate their time freely and selflessly to ensure the café opens regularly, the office is manned and the building is open and accessible.
- To our partner organisations and funders including Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council Shires Grant, National Lottery through the Awards for All programme, The Helen Jean Cope Trust and The ScrewFix Foundation.
- And finally to Meg for her hard work and dedication. She is the glue that binds us all together and without her, Fearon Community Association would be a lesser organisation.

As a community based enterprise we cannot deliver what we do without them. They have allowed us to improve the Hall immeasurably, increase the number of users and for the Association to be in its best financial position for a number of years.

I cannot thank them enough.

Andy Rhodes
Chair August 2019

Financial Summary

I am delighted to report that the Association made a surplus for the first time in a number of years.

Room hire, our main source of income, went up by £3,737 and we welcomed Charnwood Arts to the building, who have taken the Paget Room and the Craddock Room as their offices.

We saw a rise in grant income of £2,446 which was due to an increase in our Strategic Partnership Grant from Charnwood Borough Council and the start of the £10,000 funding for the Café Manager role from Leicestershire County Council Shires Grant. We also raised £10,000 towards the refurbishment of the kitchen through the ScrewFix Foundation and Helen Jean Cope Trust.

Since being brought in-house the café has seen an increase in takings of £3,284 (31%), however profitability still needs to be improved and we are hoping to see this grow in the coming year.

Our invoicing and credit control procedures have been improved, resulting in the reclaiming of some bad debts previously provided for and incurring no new bad debts. This represents a saving of £9,055 compared to the previous year.

Our consolidation this year has given us a sound footing for 2020 and beyond as the vision for the future of the Hall really starts to take shape.

Michael Welbourne
Treasurer August 2019

BALANCE SHEET As at 31 March 2019

	2019	2018
FIXED ASSETS	5741	3722
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	12456	5752
Cash	737	391
Bank	26508	23072
	39701	29215
CREDITORS	27558	12143
Due within 1 month		
TOTAL NET ASSETS	17844	15295
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES & CHARGES	23958	26405
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	(6074)	(11110)
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Accumulated Fund	(6074)	(11110)

Full accounts are available on request.

Feedback from our users

Fearon Hall is proud to host a diverse range of community groups; enabling them to support local people in skills development, health and well-being, recreation and community involvement. Here are some of the achievements our groups have reported in the year 2018-2019.

“Swadhyay enhances the spiritual and moral progress of individuals through self-introspection. We proactively promote social cohesion in our community by organising gatherings and meetings. 35-40 adults and children take part in our activities which have included a ‘Human Dignity Day’ and a tree planting day to help address climate change. Participation in Swadhyay increases self-confidence and self-awareness in both adults and children.”

“The aim of Christ Church is to nurture and build the faith of our members, whilst also reaching out to the local community in order to promote the Christian faith. We regularly see around 70 people attending our weekly Sunday services and many other community members have attended and enjoyed the Family Fun Days and Melas we have held at Fearon Hall.”

“The Loughborough Tai Chi Class has been running at Fearon Hall for over 25 years. Tai Chi is often described as meditation in motion. Tai Chi can help maintain strength, flexibility and balance. People can get started even if they aren't in top shape or the best of health – Tai Chi can help them be active for the rest of their life.”

“Anand Mangal is a multicultural women's group. 25 members meet regularly to socialise and to take part in a varied programme of activities. This has included listening to talks, doing exercise classes, producing a recipe book and contributing to the Charnwood Great War Centenary Project. All members enjoy serving the community and welcoming new members.”

Community Impact

Over the last three years, we have been on a journey of development: defining and implementing the ways we measure our community impact.

In our 2016-2017 report we told you how we were taking stock of our data. We defined a robust measurement programme so that we could reliably report attendance and engagement at the hall year-on-year. We also showed our performance broken down by charitable aim. This approach won praise from statutory bodies and partners across the county.

In our 2017-2018 report we supplemented our usage figures with a range of case-studies. These illustrated the timely and valuable contribution Fearon Community Association makes in the lives of those who become involved with the Hall: be that through attending activities, volunteering or turning to the management team in times of need.

This year, 2018-2019, we focused on Fearon Hall's community assets: which encompass room hire, arts and community space, a community cafe and social inclusion projects for children, young people, families and the elderly.

Fearon Hall Community Assets

A welcoming, safe and supportive place for all.

ROOM HIRE

Unique and flexible space for classes, groups and private functions.
Income £44,000 pa.

ARTS & COMMUNITY SPACE

Partnership and collaboration with local arts groups and individuals.
Number of groups: 90



COMMUNITY CAFÉ

A space to meet, make friends and learn about health and wellbeing.
Income £33,500 pa.

SOCIAL INCLUSION & COHESION

Activities for children, young people, families and the elderly with established links to community support groups.
Touchpoints: 39,735

MANAGEMENT

Strong governance and monitoring.
Funded management/coordinator roles to deliver the business plan.

We paid particular attention to the areas that you told us mattered to you: our provision for young people and our cafe as an enabler for community gatherings, healthy and social eating. In the current year we provided regular sessions for 245 children. We served 4258 hot drinks, snacks and meals. This is more than 3000 hours of sociable eating in a safe, welcoming and supportive environment.

We also looked at how these assets provided opportunities for volunteering and skills development. In the 12 month period April 2018 - March 2019, volunteers provided 4,300 hours of support to the hall; enabling our service users to gain new skills, build confidence and make friends. This is an enormous social investment which benefits two of the most deprived wards in Leicestershire: Hastings and Lemyngton.

When examining our provision for young people, we focused on our largest user: the Scouts. The 1st Loughborough Scouts have met at the hall since 1910. In 2019 they engaged 91 young people aged 5 to 17 years in weekly activities. In this group alone, 19 volunteer leaders gave 2000 hours of their time to support badge work, camps and expeditions.

Community Assets - Priority Areas

CAFÉ - HEALTHY FOOD & COMPANIONSHIP

Hot food and drinks, lunches.
Seasonal community meals.

VOLUNTEERING

New skills, confidence, friendship, career
enhancement, social investment.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Enabling people to make the most of
their potential and capabilities.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

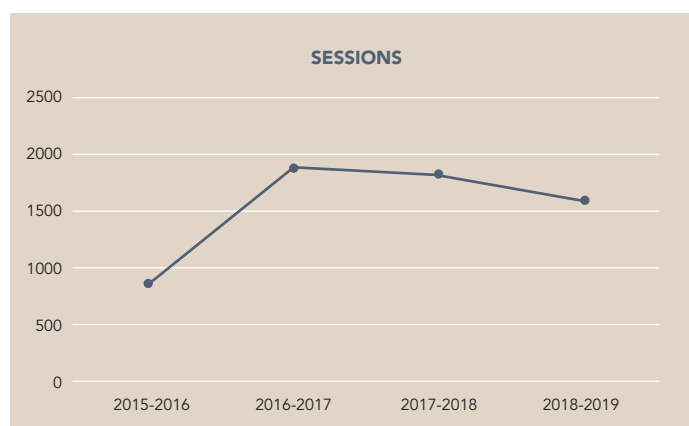
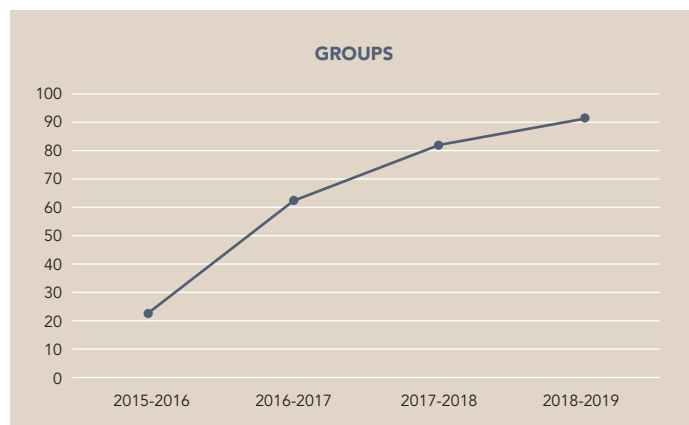
Ballet, Youth Clubs, Scouting,
Arts, Home schooling, PE, Disabled Children.

Community Impact

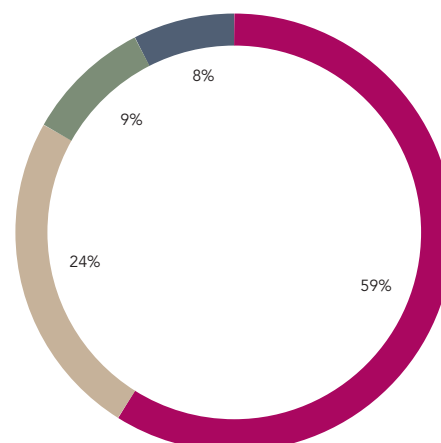
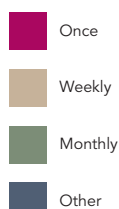
We also continued to measure our impact through attendance and engagement. Again, we can show an increase in our reach and delivery, albeit that current economic and political factors resulted in smaller growth in the number of groups, touchpoints and unique users than in previous years.

In the period April 2018 – March 2019, the number of groups operating from Fearon Hall rose 11% to 90 groups. These provided 1594 sessions, a decrease of 3% on the previous year. This decrease can be accounted for by the fact that we had more groups providing one-off or short series activities than in previous years. 59% of bookings at the hall were for one-off activities.

Looking at the year-on-year figures since 2015, it can be seen that there has been significant growth in usage of the hall. The availability of space is close to becoming a limiting factor on growth. This data supports our long-term vision for reconfiguring The Hall, to enable us to support more people in the local community in a sustainable way. The vision for Fearon Hall is currently out for consultation with stakeholders and will be a major focus for the year 2019-2020 and beyond.



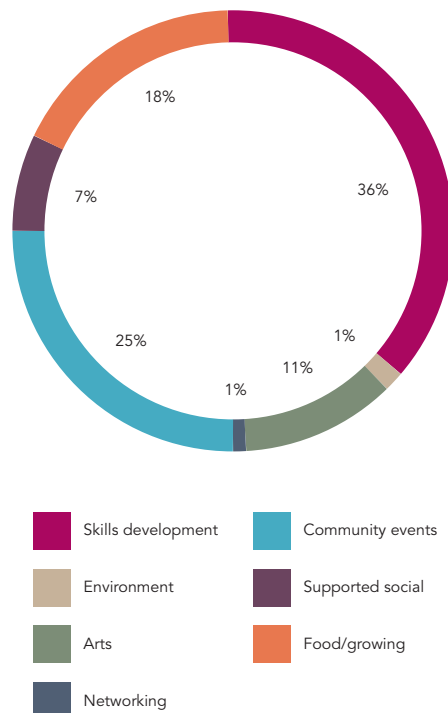
SESSION FREQUENCY



Across all groups, 39,735 touchpoints were provided for local people to engage with social, recreational and educational activities. This is an increase of 4% on the previous year. A touch point is an opportunity for an individual to benefit from an activity at Fearon Hall. It is calculated by multiplying the number of places available by the number of sessions and summing these for all groups. The touchpoints can be broken down by the type of session, and show that in the last 12 months, more than 60% of touchpoints supported skills development and community events. Food and Arts related sessions continue to grow, and combined they represent 29% of touchpoints.

Next year, based on a strong methodological foundation, we intend to decentralise our impact monitoring. We have made two new staff appointments: Activities Coordinator and Cafe Manager. These roles will be instrumental in defining and capturing our data. This change in approach will move our measurement activities closer to the beating-heart of The Hall. We will look to define new measurement tools which gather quantitative and qualitative measures directly from the groups that run here and the people who attend. We will also introduce more formal measurement of outcomes wherever possible.

TOUCHPOINTS BY SESSION TYPE



The next 12 months of Fearon Hall life will be very exciting. We are moving in to a new phase that capitalises on a strong core of community support and new partnerships. These will be instrumental in bringing our long-term vision to life.

Building for the Future

We have set ourselves some exciting challenges for the coming year.

We aim to:

- Maximise every area of space for community benefit.
- Ensure we are on a strong financial footing.
- Increase profitability to enable us to continue to be a centre that delivers relevant to the needs of our users and to allow us to meet our obligations in maintaining a building of historical value.
- Increase the numbers of users and range of activities offered.
- Increase room hire for regular and one-off bookings.
- Develop and strengthen delivery partnerships.
- Develop the Café in the Hall to support the needs of existing users and to attract new customers. Continue to offer healthy and nutritious meals recognising the central role the café has in supporting the most vulnerable in our community.
- Develop a commercial arm for catering and increasing skills and opportunities in our kitchen through teaching and training.
- Improve the kitchen facilities and make available for hire.
- Develop a communications strategy to broaden our appeal and to engage with a wider cross-section of potential customers.
- Continue with our Green credentials and our commitment to improve the external environment through the wider parish green space.
- Develop our urban garden and to grow produce to cook and eat in our café and share within the community.
- Consult on the redevelopment of Fearon Hall and to agree the architectural vision of the building and surrounding area.
- Imagine creative ways to engage our users and take on board their needs and ideas.



Your Fearon Hall

Fearon Hall needs improving and we're having the conversation about what our building should look and be like in the future.

**JOIN
THE
FUTURE
AT** Fearon Hall

- Would you like more or less public space?
- More modern resourced meeting rooms?
- Better access and a lift?
- An enhanced performance area with improved lighting and sound?
- Incubator spaces or hot desking facilities?
- Catering facilities for hire?
- Carparking - but how and where?
- An inviting green space, green gym or play activities?

We've got lots of ideas but we want to know what you think. Join the conversation and help us shape the future of the urban village hall in the heart of Loughborough.



FCA

Fearon
Community
Association

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Legal Status
Charitable Company
Limited by Guarantee

Governing Document
Memorandum and Articles
of Association

Charity Number
1130457

Company Number
6852232

Directors
Andy Rhodes
Richard Thorpe
Michael Welbourne
Nichole Browne
Carolina Escobar Tello

Centre Manager
Meg Bezzano-Griffiths

Café in the Hall
Carrie Driver
Peter Scott (Volunteer)
Zoe Powdrill (Volunteer)

Activities Coordinator
Dawn Page (from July 2019)

Activities Sessional
Amanda Bolton

Office
Andrew Creswell (Volunteer)
Beverly Robinson (Volunteer)

Cleaner
Lorraine Dickinson

We greatly acknowledge funding and support from



Community

Safe place

Talks

Strength

Activities

Socialise

Cookery

Families

Events

Health

Lifestyle

Exercise

Gardening

Mind & body

Self confidence

Fun days