

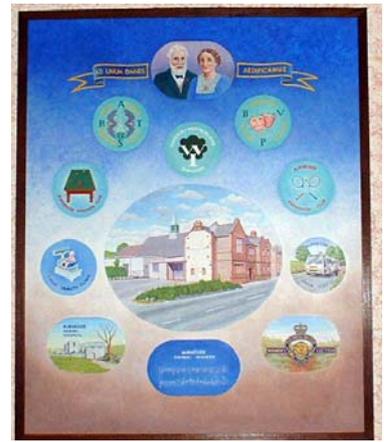
The Bryce Institute

Burneside

Kendal

Cumbria LA9 6QX

Registered Charity
No.: 233864



ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report has been prepared for the financial year 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010.

Details

The Bryce Institute
Burneside
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 6QX

email: brycebookings@btinternet.com

The Bryce Institute is registered with the Charity Commissioners (no. 233864) in a declaration of trust dated 17th April 1897 and sealed on the 15th October 1992.

The object of the Charity shall be the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Burneside without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

A Management Committee that meets regularly throughout the year administers the Charity. The Management Committee is constituted as seventeen persons, consisting of seven elected and ten representative members, and assumes the roles and responsibilities associated with being the trustees of the charity.

The Bryce Institute Charity Scheme is approved and established with the Charity Commissioners For England & Wales and is administered and managed in conformity with the provisions of the Scheme by the Management Committee constituted as the charity trustees within the meaning of section 46 of the Charities Act 1960.

The Management Committee at the financial year end was as follows:-

Chairperson	Mrs Yvonne Nelson	(Elected)
Secretary	Mr Gordon Lawson	(Elected)
Treasurer	Mr Shaun O'Sullivan	(Elected)

Elected	Mrs Velma Giraldo	
Elected	Mr Malcolm Conway	
Elected	Vacant	
Elected	Vacant	
Representative	No Representative	(Burneside Parish Council)
Representative	No Representative	(Burneside Parish Council)
Representative	Mrs Sue Cook	(Burneside Amateur Theatrical Society)
Representative	Mrs Sheila Daws	(Burneside Badminton Club)
Representative	Mrs Doreen Newman-Holden	(Silver Songsters)
Representative	Mr Ronald Key	(Burneside Over 60's)
Representative	Mrs Patricia Turton	(Burneside Youth Club)
Representative	Mrs Francis Caruthers	(Royal British Legion – Burneside Branch)
Representative	Mr Ian Conway	(Kendal Model Railway Club)
Representative	Mr Mitch Platt	(Cumbria Woodturners Association)

The format of the Management Committee is changed from the listed representative user groups in the registered scheme document due to activities ceasing to exist (Burneside Women's Institute, Burneside Choral Society and Burneside Village Players) and, in the case of James Cropper plc, no longer wishing to provide a representative member.

 Independent Accounts Examiner Mr Colin Benson

 Bankers Barclays Bank plc

Finance

The banking arrangements were unchanged during the year with the main operating account being with Barclays Bank plc. The Bryce also holds a deposit savings account for future use if it desires to use. The Bryce has a CCLA – COIF Charities Deposit Fund account which is used for the longer term deposit savings investment due to the better interest rates available.

Total income from hire:-	2002 - £ 6767
	2003 - £ 8528
	2004 - £ 9129
	2005 - £ 9344
	2006 - £10077
	2007 - £ 9684
	2008 - £13004
	2009 - £15727
	2010 - £18777

It is again pleasing to see that turnover in the Institute is still increasing year on year based on receipts from hire with another substantial raise in income of 16% over the previous FY. As reported previously I believe this can again be attributed to the work that goes into raising and maintaining the standard of the facilities and the efforts of “the few” to go beyond the call of duty setting up and helping users, therefore enhancing the experience for each hirer of which some are very appreciative. The largest proportion of the Institute's casual hire income is generated from users of the main hall,

with some user groups also booking adjacent rooms in the same hire for their activities for tea/coffee making, changing or session breakout rooms.

Since the Cropper Room was transformed from a dilapidated kitchen into a quality meeting room, the usage has increase significantly and is seeing good usage by both local groups and companies

The general running costs for The Bryce are still increasing significantly, up 20% on the year ending March 2008 (this on top of a 23% rise last year), the largest single increase being £827 (32%) for bought gas. It continues to be very disappointing that UU changed their pricing structure for surface water drainage, and chose not to exempt Village Halls, which makes even further financial strain on community Charities already struggling. This year The Bryce paid £1213 for surface water and sewer services and we have seen this figure increase significantly year on year.

Significant investment was made again during the year on maintenance and improvement. Part of this was triggered by a major flood during the November heavy rains, which caused chaos across Cumbria, and which in our case burst the tanking in the cellar under the pressure of water from surrounding areas and the high water table. This became the subject of a significant insurance claim as our 40 to 50 years old boilers were flooded and deemed not worth repairing, and if they were no guarantee would be given. This resulted in The Bryce being without heating for three months and part of the increased gas costs covers for calor heaters to maintain users comfort and income from hiring.

As the boilers needed replacement we took the opportunity to install new in a room above ground level so the situation of flooded boilers and no heating would not reoccur. To get even better value from this improvement the boilers were boxed in and surrounded with new custom built cupboards to create storage space not previously available with no detriment to the size of the room. These initiatives resulted in us funding the difference as an improvement.

At this point in the annual report I would like, on behalf of the Committee, to offer our massive thanks to Chris Ellera of CEContracting and his friend Paul Walker who between them rustled up a tractor with a large pump attached and emptied the cellar of water every 20 minutes for over 24 hours. This commitment in essence saved the Bryce from significant damage that would have been caused by the rising water entering the building and accessing all the main rooms. This work appeared on television on Granada Reports who had sent a reporter and tv van to Burneside to film some of the flooding to houses and areas in the village.

During the year we converted one of the attic areas so that it could be used for storage, something, like most village halls, we are short of.

In addition to the improvements mentioned above we also undertook repainting work to three of the main rooms to maintain their standard and not allow the décor to become "tired".

In a very challenging economic time The Management Committee are well aware of the need to ensure cost savings are achieved wherever possible whilst maintaining and improving the facility for the long term use of the community as well as preserving and increasing the user base it has.

On a positive note, significant effort were put into fundraising events with the main contributions coming from a Cabaret evening in November and a Christmas Fayre following two weeks later. The cabaret evening was performed by members of the local theatrical society who reside in the Bryce and played to a full audience. A profit was realised on the evening of £963 which was supplemented by a donation of £750 from the Charities Aid Foundation via Barclays Bank where the Secretary is employed making a total profit of £1713.

After a disappointing Christmas Fayre the previous year due to treacherous footpath and road conditions, it was decided to try again this year with a fayre during the day, including Santa sat in his grotto, and a Christmas concert in the evening by Kendal Millennium Choir and Burneside Brass Band. The event was much better attended this year, and although profit was disappointing for the Bryce for the efforts put in, it was enjoyed by everybody and deemed a success.

During the year one of our Committee passed a personal licence qualification funded by The Bryce so we are now able to provide a bar facility selling alcohol when required and we see this as another potential lucrative income stream.

To aid compliance with legislation, the Bryce purchased PAT testing equipment during the year and this can be used to regularly test our own portable appliances as well as offer the service to user groups and generate a further small income stream.

On the year as a whole, the published accounts show a surplus on the year of £1600.18.

On the face of the accounts, the closing balance of the operating account with Barclays showed a decrease in the year from opening at £10,919 to a closing figure of £351. This in the main was due to the work done associated with the cellar flooding and at the year end we had an interim insurance payout awaiting banking, this being the major value in the “Debtors and Prepayments” increasing over the year from £2,950 to £15,081. The Bryce also had £1464 in a COIF account.

It is an aim of the Management Committee to maintain a reserve equivalent to at least nine months of the running costs as a contingency against a total loss of income for a prolonged period due to unforeseen circumstances. This objective is being controlled well, balancing the income with the ongoing running and improvement project costs, whilst still maintaining this reserve.

The accounts of The Bryce Institute were subjected to independent examination, as required by the 1990 Act, by Mr Colin Benson. The Management Committee thanks Colin for his work.

Bryce Institute Building

The only asset managed by the Committee / Trustees remains the Bryce Institute building consisting of-

- Foyer
- Main Hall with permanent stage area (including theatrical lighting)
- 3 meeting rooms (Cropper Room, Acland Room & Green Room)
- A room rented out on a sole user basis to the Kendal Model Railway Club
- The Hoyle Room (ex Reading Room) now 50% rented out for storage to KMRC and 50% rented to Cumbria Primary Care to store a hospital bed and run nursing courses
- An office used by the Community Police
- A rented out business premise (ex caretaker's flat) consisting of entrance room and consultancy room on the ground floor with two further rooms upstairs.
- Male & female toilet facilities.

The project to renovate and refurbish the Bryce has continued and is now in the position where every room has been refurbished to a good standard and made a nice comfortable place to be. An ongoing painting cycle will continue so that the rooms do not deteriorate in quality as has previously happened.

The main outstanding projects are refurbishment of the Main Foyer and seriously upgrading the toilet facilities. We are envisaging performing this work during the next Financial Year.

Future Development

The larger project to renovate the building, including a small extension, and provide improved disabled access, toilet facilities, storage etc. is still being progressed, albeit very slowly. This will need significant funding work to be raised via any grants available from the Lottery or other appropriate charitable organisations.

The ongoing project to improve the facilities and perform urgent maintenance has progressed very well over the last three years with every room now having been refurbished to a very good standard.

Work in the coming year will continue this programme with every opportunity being taken to raise the standard including creating further storage where possible.

User Groups

The Bryce user base is predominantly unchanged from previous years. The Institute is currently used on a regular basis by a wide variety of users ranging from various sports activities to theatrical performances and musical concerts, model railway to woodturning enthusiasts and baby clinic to over 60's activities.

We did lose a few of our minor user groups during the year including yoga, tai-chi and ju-jitsu due to insufficient numbers to maintain the activity in the village.

The Bryce is also slowly picking up more business hire for meeting rooms from a variety of companies including James Cropper plc, Creative Support, Cumbria Primary Care Trust and Bark of The Willow. The one thing we would like to see are new user groups using the meeting facilities from the local community, but there does not appear much movement on this front as society seems to be ever more reluctant to get involved, and less people are prepared to run activities, especially where children and teens are concerned.

The facilities continue to have regular and considerable use in the evenings but there remains substantial unfulfilled potential for daytime and Saturday activities.

Some examples of the regular activities available to people from the village and surrounding areas that they can visit The Bryce to watch or participate in are:-

Burneside Amateur Theatrical Society - Pantomimes, plays, songs from the shows and cabaret evenings
Burneside Badminton Club
Burneside Judo club
Burneside Over 60's club - Indoor bowling and other activities
Royal British Legion – Women's Section, Burneside Branch meetings
Cumbria Woodturning Association – wood turning
Kendal Model Railway Club
Kickboxing
Pilates
Bark Of The Willow offering complimentary healing activity
James Cropper plc for AGM and Meeting Rooms
Cumbria Primary Care for meetings and training courses
Creative Support for meetings and training
Cumbria Police

There is also regular usage, and irregular, by WI, Schools, Majorettes and Young Farmers as well as a long list of others.

In addition to this the facilities have been used for a variety of private functions, charitable functions and rummage sales during the year.

Other

This report would not be complete without thanking all the members of the Management Committee for their attendance and efforts over the last 12 months and for their representation of their respective user group. Special mention within this must also go to the small core of the Committee and a couple of friends, who know who they are, and whose efforts are well above and beyond anything that could be called reasonable. Without these few there would be far less progress on refurbishment and probably a reduced income from hiring.

There is no doubt that the village needs a building such as The Bryce to provide facilities to explore a range of hobbies, social & recreational activities, and without the dedication, time and effort shown by this group of people the position would not look as bright as it currently does for maintaining this provision for the long term use by the community.

Shaun O'Sullivan
Treasurer