Florence Nightingale Memorial Hall Annual Report 2025

Aims and Purposes

On 12th September 1932 a conveyance was signed by Louis Hilary Shore Nightingale following the will of William Shore Nightingale (23rd August 1894), granting the parcel of land now occupied by the hall to the Parish.

The conditions of the conveyance describe the aims and purpose of the hall as follows:

1. The premises shall be used for the purposes of physical and mental recreation and social, moral and intellectual development through the medium of reading and recreation rooms, library, lectures, classes, sports, recreations and entertainments as may be found expedient for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Dethick, Lea and Holloway, without distinction of sex or political or other opinions subject to the provisions of the premises.

Objectives and Activities

The Trustees are committed to providing access and use of the hall to as many people as possible in the parish. We aim to allow as many diverse groups as possible to use the hall, as well as providing facilities for ad-hoc events such as parties, celebrations, and public information activities.

Regular users book the hall weekly, monthly, annually or any combination in between. We try to strike a balance between making good use of the hall through consistent bookings and leaving free slots (morning, afternoon, evenings or weekend days) to allow one-off bookings, maintenance activities and free use for community events.

Achievements and Performance

This year has seen a growth in new users of the hall. As mentioned above the village hall is used by both regular groups and adhoc users. These groups include residents of the parish and other users from throughout the area, The groups are a mixture of community or not-for-profit and classes who charge for attendance.

At the moment the hall regular users include :

Kyokushin Karate:	Weekly exercise and martial arts class every Monday evening
Wine Circle:	Monthly Social food and drink group
Live & Local:	Entertainments, Groups, Plays - open to all, normally 4 times a year
Parish Council:	Meetings held once a month, open to residents
Deleho Bowls:	Indoor bowling and social group. Weekly on Tuesday afternoons
Horticultural Society:	Meet monthly and holds shows and plant sales yearly

Tai-Chi:	Exercise class held weekly every Friday afternoon
Yoga:	Yoga class every Sunday evening
Run of the Mill:	Folk Dancing and social twice a month on Wednesday evenings
Pilates:	Exercise class every Friday morning
Rainbows:	Holloway Guide Association, every Wednesday afternoon
Munchkins:	Parent and Toddler/Baby Group every Wednesday Morning
Friday Soup:	Community Soup and Dessert social and fund raising every Friday
Holloway PomPoms:	Fun exercise class every Tuesday evening
Gong Bathing:	Therapeutic Sound Bathing for Individuals and Groups
Holloway Film:	Professional Film Showings 8 times a year
Ecstatic Dance Group:	Silent dancing and meditation for 2 hours on Sundays bi-weekly

The hall is also hired by individuals and groups for one-off activities. These have included Children's parties, Adult birthday parties, Anniversaries, Wedding receptions, Art classes, Antiques valuations, Choir practice, ballet practice, Christmas Fayres, Craft sessions, Nursery School shows and Family get-togethers.

Hirings can be per 2 hour slot, full morning/afternoon/evening or whole day. Preferential rates are given to parish residents and not-for-profit sessions. Wherever possible, community events such as village meetings, Children in Need, and Christmas lights & Carols are hosted at no cost.

Maintenance and Development

A combination of lack of funding, support and Covid meant that the hall had really been "ticking over" for some years with no concerted effort for improvement or even maintenance of the structure. In the last couple of years we have attempted to rectify this.

In no particular order we have : Had a new roof fitted over the annex and store room; new door to back of hall storage area; completely refurbished the ladies and gents toilets; decorated and boarded the toilet corridor; installed additional sockets in annex and main hall; installed new lighting under the stage; installed a new electric hob in the kitchen; completely sorted and cleaned all kitchen cupboards, replaced tea urn, disposed of old equipment, etc; decorated the disabled toilet, meter corridor, corner store room and stage side rooms; created a new storage area with shelving, replacing old back stage toilet; and had cherry tree trimmed and pruned, and weeded and cleared all outside areas of the hall.

Current plans in place include replacing guttering and downpipes and installing a new Infrared heating system in all areas of the hall. This will replace the old gas appliances that have already been removed and enable us to make use of off-peak tariffs, battery storage and possibly PV panels to radically improve the running cost and sustainability of the hall.

We can then concentrate on development of the hall and its facilities. Our current vision is to make the hall the community hub for the village, especially important after the closure of the village shop and now the Methodist Chapel. A first step in this direction is to develop the outside area. We have removed a fence and cleared a lot of grass and now want to create low maintenance shrub and flower borders and a seating area for all to enjoy, whether the hall is being used or not. The Parish Council have already sponsored a bench and we are hoping to get more benches, tables, etc to allow residents to gather and chat as they pass by. We hope to also create steps to the raised tree area to create a nice shaded spot for socialising. The horticultural society will be asked to donate plants and volunteers will develop and maintain the area but we aim for the project to be funded by donations and sponsorship.

After that we will look at clearing and improving the stage area and side rooms and making more efficient use of the understage and outside storage facilities.

The aim is to maximise use of the hall by all of the community and offer as broad and varied a selection of activities for all to enjoy.

Financial Review

The aim of the hall is to be self-sufficient such that income from lettings, donations and interest payments are equal or greater than the annual costs of running the hall – utilities, general improvements, safety and statutory checks and servicing.

We believe that our letting charges are very competitive with similar halls and offer exceptional value to our users, also allowing discretionary usage for community events.

We also have a FNMH “Friends” scheme whereby local residents can set up a standing order (normally £10 annually) to support the hall. Last year this scheme, plus individual donations, gave us almost £2000.

In 2025 we have achieved our aim : Total Income was £18183, of which £12511 was from lettings (Regular and Adhoc) and £5672 from Donations, Friends, Entertainmenst Income and Bank Interest.

Total Expenditure was £12253, giving a surplus of £5930.

This year also had an unexpected bonus when we received a substantial legacy donation from the Holloway Community Shop CIC (Company Number 14988040). The articles of the CIC defined it as an asset locked CIC ensuing that monies could only be used for community purposes. As such, when it was wound up the Village Hall was named as beneficiary. This allowed us to undertake a number of very overdue improvements and repairs to the hall but also to establish an “Endowment fund” to hopefully ensure the future of the hall for many years to come.

Reserves Policy

As a community asset, the Florence Nightingale Memorial Hall (FNMH) is run as a non-profit making operation with any surplus of income over receipts devoted to

current maintenance and a contribution to financial reserves to cover future maintenance, refurbishment and unexpected revenue voids.

Reserves are “that part of a charity’s unrestricted funds that is freely available to spend on any of the charity’s purposes”, in other words money that is not required to meet the FNMH’s anticipated running costs. Reserves can strengthen the village hall’s resilience against, for example, drops in income or the demands of a new project.

The village hall should always have sufficient money in the current account to meet daily needs. In practice, the average annual expenditure varies around £13,000 to £14,000 according to current commitments and the position in the contract booking invoicing cycle.

The majority of the reserves, however, are held in a savings account. The amount held includes the majority of the legacy from the Shop CIC. The purpose of this is twofold. Firstly a sum of money is to cover major repairs, the loss of any large regular user group or closure due to unforeseen circumstances, e.g. pandemic. Secondly to provide an “Endowment fund” which will not normally be used but the interest from which can be used to subsidise and support the hall to ensure continuity for many years to come.

Volunteers

All officers of the Management Committee give a great deal of their time and effort to help run the hall. To supplement this we have established a group of “Volunteers” who perform maintenance tasks and give their professional skills for free. The WhatsApp group that has been set up for this has over 50 members and the last “Painting and Gardening” event saw almost 20 people happily working for all or part of the day in a very productive and sociable way. The current drive to upgrade and modernise the hall has seen smaller groups or individual volunteers working every week during times when the hall is not in use.

We are very grateful for this and the hall could not function as well without this great community support.

Structure, Governance and Management

The original covenant for the hall set out how the hall should be managed:

“The general management and control of the premises shall be vested in a Council of Management which will consist of representatives of groups and bodies making use of the hall who will hold office and be elected annually each May.”

As defined above, the management of the hall is performed by elected representatives of groups using the hall and additional co-opted members as required. Formal positions are elected at the AGM each year or by a committee vote in the interim.

All users of the hall can be represented at committee meetings. These are held once a month in the hall. Officers of the committee communicate regularly in between these meetings and oversee maintenance activities, bookings and day-to-day activities.

Trustees can vote on Village Hall matters and can be elected to perform duties as officials of the village hall. Formal positions exist for : Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Other Trustees can take specific responsibilities as required. For example, one Trustee organises the annual Entertainment bookings and another is managing the current energy efficiency project.

Administrative Information

The trustees are registered with the Charity Commission as official trustees of the land and property. **Charity Number 520453**

The current trustees and officials for this year are as follows :

Chair:	Peter Appleton
Vice-Chair:	John Bumby
Secretary:	Sara Kent
Treasurer:	Stephen Dennis

Trustee	Zoe Anne Smallman
Trustee	Katherine Ward
Trustee	Ruth Allen
Trustee	Stephen Bailey
Trustee	Jean Dawes
Trustee	Ann Louise Thomas
Trustee	Sarah Jakubait
Trustee	Brian Ford
Trustee	Jacqueline Mitchell

Florence Nightingale Memorial Hall
Registered Charity 520453
Accounts 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Receipts

Hall rental	£12,511.75
Friends of Village Hall	£1,175.00
Donations	£750.00
Entertainments	£1,946.14
Bionic refund	£50.00
Nationwide interest	£1,750.94
TOTALS	**£18,183.83**

Payments

Hall administration	£2,372.32
Gas	£2,351.83
Electricity	£640.40
Water	£573.63
Consumables	£1,007.84
Building maintenance	£1,565.95
Sundries	£344.98
Insurance	£984.25
Licenses	£525.08
Costs of shows	£1,734.45
Cash/bar stock usage	£152.99
TOTALS	**£12,253.72**

SURPLUS	**£5,930.11**

Capital as at 31st December 2025

Balance b/fwd	£49,369.53
Legacy balance	£184,879.81
Surplus	£5,930.11
TOTAL	**£240,179.45**

Held as

Nationwide	£137,383.53
Santander	£102,025.58
Monies to come	£459.00
Cash in hand	£246.34
Bar stock	£65.00
TOTALS	**£240,179.45**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Hall Trust (Charity Number 520453)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Hall Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name: Peter Kelsey

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): None

Address: Mill House, Riber Road, Lea DE4 5JQ

Date: 2/8/26