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SPANDA TRUST
Harbour House • Arts & Yoga
Bala Brook • Retreat Centre

Update from the Trustees

At Bala Brook, the much needed refurbishment of the main house is now almost complete and Covid permitting, we are hoping to re-open and start hosting retreats. It is looking very refreshed and welcoming. We are hugely grateful to all those who have done such a splendid job in making everything happen so smoothly and to such a high standard. The silver lining of the pandemic was that it gave us the opportunity to carry out the refurbishment. We also have a very promising short-list of candidates for the post of part-time manager of the retreat centre with interviews due to take place in December.

At Harbour House, everyone including Jo in the cafe pulled out all the stops to re-open during the summer. We are now back in lockdown awaiting guidance as to the restrictions which will be in place in the run-up to Christmas and next year. That said, we are older and wiser and ready for whatever comes. At a recent trustee meeting, we discussed some of the figures around the finances of the Trust and the need to break even. With this in mind, we have begun a conversation with the staff, ourselves and informed people with an interest in the Trust as to how we can achieve this and guarantee the long term survival of Harbour House. We will go back to first principles. What is the vision behind Harbour House? What is the strategic plan? What are our policies? How can the Trust best serve the community in which it plays such an important part?

An early step is the decision to raise the rates of hire from 1st April 2021 to bring them into line with inflation and rising costs. Meanwhile we will review the rates and the terms & conditions for artists, yoga teachers and others who hire space in the building with the intention of introducing a new system in the autumn. Our commitment as a charity is undiminished but we do need to become more clear in our intentions and more business oriented in how we operate.

Very soon, there will be two new websites: one for Spanda Trust and one for Bala Brook. Do check them out.

Seasonal best wishes.

Charles and Martha