



Ingatestone & Fryerning Community Association, Charitable Incorporated Organisation (IFCA)

NEWS RELEASE

16 FEBRUARY 2020

INGATESTONE COMMUNITY CHARITY CELEBRATES ITS TEN YEAR SUCCESSFUL TRANSFORMATION

Ingatestone & Fryerning Community Association (IFCA) has cut its membership fees by a third for 2020 and celebrated 10 years of a quite remarkable transformation at its 2018/19 Annual General Meeting, held on 12 February 2020 at Ingatestone Community Centre.

In her address to the meeting, IFCA's Chairman, Lilian Hunter charted how the Community Centre, under threat for non-payment of electricity bills, nearly closed in 2010. It had no money. Following that a new Committee of trustees and volunteers from the main groups using the Centre set about raising £5,000 in donations and securing advance payments to keep the Centre open.

Changes to the management to contract out the running of the bar to Peter Smith, taking control of the car park income, together with sound administration and financial management have slowly brought about a transformation to the charity's fortunes. Long term debts of £278,262 in 2010 have reduced to £118,789 in 2018/19. Over that time the IFCA has been awarded 15 grants totalling some £110,000 and has made an operational surplus each year. This has enabled many improvements including refurbishment of the Hall, the bar, the snooker room and a new kitchen that holds a five star hygiene rating, as well as many other improvements.

The IFCA's activities are not limited to Ingatestone. The IFCA also owns Fryerning Parish Room that was in a dilapidated state and was then subject to vandalism. By joining forces with volunteers from Fryerning in 2012 to raise funds, Fryerning Parish Room is now a very attractive and cosy facility for hire for smaller functions.

In looking forward, Lilian Hunter cited the increasing focus on events such as Abba, the Jersey Boys and forthcoming *Take This* tribute acts, as well as the brand new *Ingatestone Community Cinema* that will be showing a range of films over the forthcoming months. This is in addition to shows regularly put on by the Ingatestone Musical and Operetta Group and the Young Expressions youth performance group and weekly coffee mornings that are open for all.

Mrs Hunter said "Looking back it is immensely rewarding to think how our efforts have saved such an amazing facility for our village and our thanks go out to the members and volunteers for their efforts and support." A toast was raised to mark this remarkable achievement and a vote of thanks was given to the IFCA trustees and staff for their hard work.

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Note to Editors

1. IFCA CIO is a registered charity No.1161482 with the objective of promoting the interests, recreation and leisure-time pursuits of local inhabitants through the operation of Ingatestone Community Centre and Fryerning Parish Room.
2. The IFCA's origins go back to Ingatestone Working Mens' Club in 1862 and successor organisations. The current Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was set up in 2014 as part of its modernisation.
3. IFCA had 544 members in 2019
4. Ingatestone Community Centre has a large Hall and stage, bar and snooker room as well as being the home for local Tennis and Bowling Clubs.

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