

Friends of Stretford Public Hall Board of Directors Update on Key Decisions April 2019

Ballroom transformation

We are working towards submitting a full planning application to the Council for the final renovation work (Phase 3b Ballroom) likely to now commence in July 2019. Repairs to the roof have been delayed partly due to poor weather but also to undertake additional work around air vents and installing a fall prevention system.

Finance / fundraising

FoSPH is now VAT registered and charging VAT on our services. We will however be able to claim back VAT on expenditure including capital works and refurbishment. We were successful in receiving grants (Awards for All, Manchester Airport) and are awaiting outcome of a number of other funding bids.

We submitted planning permission to extend our opening hours in order to attract a wider range of events and activities and increase our income.

Events and activities

We are currently at capacity for wellbeing activities at the Hall.

Wellbeing Tuesdays to run from 23rd April- 21st May

- Kids art classes 24th April-22nd May.
- Stretford Singers – starts again on 24 April
- Back to the Civic: Family All Dayer 28 April
- Community Cinema: 27th April- Frida – 70 tickets sold out within 28 hours
- Women's Histories: 10th-12th May Weekend-long festival of cultural activity, featuring film screenings, workshops and a range of arts, celebrating the history of women and social change in south Manchester. Generously funded by Film Hub North and delivered in partnership with the North West Film Archive (NWFA), MACFEST, the Muslim Arts and Culture Festival, and the Stretford Arts Collective (SAC32).
- Stretford Children's theatre starting activities again from the hall. Evening Hire of the Underhall is nearly at full capacity
- We have also seen an increase in ad hoc general hires including Trafford Council and Co-operatives UK.
- We had a well-attended and enjoyable event last month to say thank you to Noush who formally stepped down as Chair.