

Florence Park Social Club – 2025 Review

Chair's Report to the Florence Park Community Association AGM

6th May, 2026

Business & Governance

Financial Year 2025 saw significant structural development for Florence Park Social Club (FPSC). It was identified that FPSC's status as an 'unincorporated association' was not fit for purpose. Therefore through 2025, the FPSC discussed and agreed new governance structure with our parent charity, Florence Park Community Association (FPCA). This new governance agreement required FPSC to incorporate itself as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG)

Hence on 4th December 2025, "Florence Park Social Club and Bar (CLG)" was successfully incorporated as a new legal entity. It was also necessary to open a new bank account in the name of the new company and trading commenced on 1st January, 2026.

Financially, the FPSC performed extremely well in 2025 and we are pleased to report a successful year. There is more detail in Robert's Financial Report but suffice to say that FPSC has been able to make numerous positive investments in new/improved equipment and infrastructure.

On the employment front, the Board has worked to formalise arrangements for staff, with employment contracts now in place for all staff and remuneration continues to be paid at the Oxford Living Wage level.

Music and Events

Florence Park Community Centre has continued to strengthen its position as a leading live music venue within the Oxford music scene and this is a key foundation of FPSC's strong performance in 2025.

We remain proud of the role we play in supporting local artists and providing an accessible, community-rooted space for live performance.

Key highlights for the period include:

- **Florence Park Rocks** – a jointly hosted (FPCA and FPSC) day of live music native to the Florence Park area – 16 acts across all ages; each with at least 1 resident involved.
 - Over 80 performers in total
 - The headline act included brothers Phil and Pete Fryer who grow up in Florence Park and actually played as teenagers in the Community Centre in 1965.
- **Rising Stars** – Hosted by FPSCAB, a series of live music shows dedicated to youth music. Starting in Oct 2025, there have been two sold out shows so far with two more scheduled this year (July 17th and October 23rd)
- Continued recognition as a leading Oxford music venue.
 - We are now the home of Klub Kakofanney, Oxford longest running live music night which started in 1990.
 - A key venue in the Oxford City Festival that is dedicated to local live music.

In other positive developments:

- Generous PA equipment donations received from Brian and Patrick, significantly enhancing our technical capacity.
- New mixing desk kindly funded by Viv Peto
- Introduction of a new affordable PA hire offer, making the venue more accessible to a wider range of promoters and community groups.

- A rich and varied programme of events beyond music, including talks, theatre, comedy and other celebrations – all this plus an unforgettable panto run.

Noise Management

The Board recognises that noise management is central to maintaining a positive relationship with our neighbours and the wider community. A number of proactive steps have been taken during the period:

- Removable noise insulation panels – installed for live music and DJ events.
- Proactive noise monitoring, supported by guidance, policies and procedures issued to hirers staging live music/DJ events.
- Enhanced community engagement, including the provision of a direct phone contact for neighbours to call when noise disturbance from live music/DJ is unacceptable.
 - A member of the bar team will answer who will then inform person operating sound system to reduce the level.

Investments & Improvements

ON the back of 2025's success, FPSCAB has been proactively investing in its facilities and infrastructure. Improvements completed or underway during the period include:

- Installation of bar shutters.
- Chiller room maintenance, including servicing of internal unit and relocation of external unit to remove from direct sunlight. This has improved efficiency and reduced energy usage.
- Upgraded safes and new CCTV coverage through bar and cellar area.
- New EPOS System (SumUp Terminals)
- New glass washer (now installed) and ice machine (currently in progress).

Thanks & Acknowledgements

The Board wishes to place on record its sincere thanks to all those whose dedication and hard work sustain the Club. In particular, we thank:

- Fellow FPSCAB Director and Treasurer Robert Wilson for ensuring critical aspects within a successful transition to the new company structure.
- The bar team – Sarah, Avril, Sophie, Viks and Kelly. They regularly work long shifts and keep all aspects of the bar operation going.
- Payam Atar who (along with Robert and myself) make up the FPSCAB management committee.
- Karen, our Centre Manager, for her continued commitment and dedication to the day-to-day running of the Club.
- The Trustees of Florence Park Community Association for their ongoing support and oversight.
- Our wonderful team of volunteers, with particular thanks Mick and Tony (Talk nights) and to Steve and Viv for their exceptional contributions generally.
- All those that hire/attend/make use of this lovely centre as social space for events, parties/celebrations – a space in which our bar is thriving.