

**THE NARTH & DISTRICT VILLAGE HALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.30 pm, Tuesday, 8th October 2019**

Present: Sue & Graham Agg; Marilyn & Jon Dunkelman; Larry Stoter; Pam Manfield; Jane & Steve Gilliard; Sue & Peter Flower; Clark Atkinson Ted Bannister; Bill & Sue Parnell; Rosemary Thomas; Stephan & Rachel Widdicks; Dianne & Steve Dix; Clare Catto; Keith Lipscombe; Gary Clayton; Sue Goodlass; Paul Harrington; Gordon Casson.

1. Apologies: Kay & Brian Mahony; Sue Stocker; Jane Brackstone; Gwen & Bob Reid; Wendy Atkinson; Emily Ryder; Lucia Ashton; Maria Ricketts; Kay Bowen; Nikki Reed; Nikki Godfrey; Lisa Dorel.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record. Proposed: Ted Bannister; seconded: Clark Atkinson. Carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising: there were none.

4. Thanks to Volunteers

The Chair (Cllr Larry Stoter) thanked all volunteers who had helped to keep the Hall running successfully in the last year: The Glade Tavern Team and helpers; group organisers; event organisers; booking management; emergency key holders; independent oversight of finances and safeguarding; gardening and maintenance and the Committee. He also thanked all those who attended events or activities in the Hall. He particularly stressed that it would be very helpful if a few people could donate 2 or 3 hours a year to help set up or clear the Glade Tavern.

5. Review of the Year

The Chair reported that Gwen Reid and Ruth Williams had joined the Committee. There had been a major renovation of the conservatory, which had been weather-proofed and had improved fire resistance. New water heaters had been installed; more shelving had been added to the kitchen and ongoing maintenance and repairs had been carried out by volunteers. He also thanked the organisers of Film Nights; shows funded by the Welsh Arts Council and the 100 Club in helping to maintain a healthy financial position.

6. Events of the last year

There had been a large number of events: the Glade Tavern(GT) nights; Village Walks; Nina Simone evening; Christmas cards; GT Super Saturday; GT Christmas Party; Dawn Chorus Walk; Puttin' on the Ritz; Carmina; Big Breakfast; Family Fun Day; Quiz and Curry Night; Film Nights. In addition, there were the regular clubs/activities. Particular thanks were due to Wendy Atkinson and helpers for the very successful and enjoyable Family Fun Day, aided by the good weather.

7. Activity and group updates

Local Links, Age Cymru: Paul Harrington thanked the Big Breakfast organisers for their donation to the group. He noted the group was open to all over 50 and now had 9-11 members each week. He asked all to publicise the group to anyone local who might be feeling isolated and who would enjoy the various activities. The group was attempting a link with the Primary School in Trellech. He noted the issue of needing an emergency phone following a member's fainting fit. He stressed that from the end of October he would need help in running the group and asked if anyone in the Village would be able to help. Support and training will be available. It was suggested that collaborating with local halls and moving sessions between them might help in gaining helpers.

Wild Tots, Clare Catto: The group had now been operating for 3 years, with 4 volunteers and support from the national group. They stressed free play in nature to give families confidence to take their children out into the countryside. Preschoolers and young children were welcome. See website for details of meetings.

Footpath Project, Jon Dunkelman on behalf of Brian Mahony: Surveys had been completed from 2015-2019 over 25 miles of footpaths which had led to work and improvements. A second survey would start in 2020, reviewing the paths. Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) had

helped with working days and volunteers. There was also a regular group which had held 7 working days clearing path and stiles, doing conservation work in Margaret's Wood and pulling Himalayan Balsam. 15 volunteers had donated 332 hours in the year. MCC were thanked for their support, as were National Resources Wales. Penallt had now set up a group so footpaths could be linked effectively. The group was grateful to Trellech United Communities Council (TUCC) for grants and equipment. They were looking forward to a Manor Wood Project and to linking users of the 65 bus with local footpaths.

Film Night, Marilyn Dunkelman: This year was the 10th anniversary of the Film Nights. Joining with Penallt in 2016 had led to excellent co-operation and more availability of films locally.

Discount Oil Buying Group, Larry Stoter: For £8 pa which goes to the Village Hall, residents can save on their oil orders. In the last 12 months the 37 members have saved £2,250 between them. Since larger orders means larger discounts, more members means more money saved.

Wye Valley Women, Jane Gilliard: The year had been successful and there were now 43 members, who had enjoyed talks, lunch outings, trips and monthly walk and talk meetings.

Friends of the 65 Bus, Jane Gilliard: The group now had 95 followers on Twitter and 63 friends on Facebook. The latter had proved useful in publicising revised timetables and the leaders have been busy raising the profile, via the Old People's Commissioner for Wales, local Walking Groups; the MP and AM and have links with Transport for Wales etc. They had responded to consultation documents from the Welsh Assembly and a project to encourage the use of buses. A new bus had been added to the 65 route, but people were reminded the service would only continue if it is used; residents were asked to consider more use of the bus for local transport. Information is available via Jane or Brian Mahony.

Glade Tavern, Clark Atkinson: Clark noted that both old and new residents were attendees. The Summer event had been really successful and the band were booked for the Christmas party. He stressed the dependence on volunteers who need additional help for setting up and clearing up, besides serving. The Committee were thanked for their help with this and with stock buying and financing. Help of an hour once or twice a year would be invaluable in keeping the tavern going. Training was available. All helpers and residents were thanked for their support.

The North Singers Ted Bannister: Two concerts had been held in the last year and both had been very well received, raising £2,070. The next concert would be on the 12th of December at St Nicholas' Church, Trellech.

Garden Club, Graham Agg: It had been a very successful year, started with the now-famous Hog Roast and AGM, then seven meetings. The Plant Sale was now in its 3rd year. There had been trips to Kew, Kenchurch Gardens and a Garden party. Ruth Potter was busy organising the programme for 2020, including a trip in July to Powys Castle.

Table Tennis, Stephan Widdicks: This was now in its second year with 10-15 people attending regularly. It was a relaxed, social, rather than competitive club.

Tai Chi, Jon Dunkelman: This takes place fortnightly on Sunday mornings with practice sessions on the alternate Monday.

Written reports were received from:

Whist Drive, Kay Bowen and Sue Stocker: The whist drive takes place every month except December. The cost is £2 to play and have supper and there is also a raffle; all proceeds go to the Village Hall. People attend from a wide area, including Bristol, Caldicot and the Forest of Dean; numbers remain stable at 36-44 each month.

Keep Fit, Lucia Ashton: Suitable for all levels, with 20 minutes of aerobic movements and then some strength exercises with weights and floor work. The class finishes with good stretches. Classes are Monday at 10 am; everyone welcome.

Yoga, Emily Ryder: The class is going well and is now full. Heating at ground level had been a problem, but the new heating system should help.

Zumba, Nikki Reed: This is an enjoyable and versatile exercise/fitness programmes with dance and aerobic choreography to a variety of Latin American and international music. The class is suitable for all levels and is a complete workout for the brain as well as the body. People leave feeling energised and with smiles on their faces.

The Chair suggested that if anyone had ideas for events or activities they should contact the Committee who could provide help and advice.

8. Projects for the Future

These include supplementary heating for the Hall, an electric vehicle charging point; replacing the garage door; new soffits/barge boards etc; a new cooker hood; cleaning and oiling the floor; resurfacing the parking area; sorting out the flat roof. Funding was still, therefore, important.

9. Questions from the floor

The position regarding the septic tank was raised. This is a potential problem, but there is not a significant load on the tank and it has been examined within recent years to ensure it can cope. However, we all need to keep eyes open for possible problems. A questioner asked if resurfacing the parking area included the slabs outside the garage - this will be considered by the committee.

10. Finance Report

Marilyn Dunkelmann reported that the Hall had broken even over the last 3 years and there was a good surplus with stable financial figures. A minimum income of around £6,200 pa is needed just to cover running costs. Events and group income help greatly. To provide for maintenance and improvements, there is a need to make £11k pa. It was noted that the Hall has significant reserves, however, some planned maintenance/improvements are likely to be very expensive; indicative pricing for replacing the kitchen/annex is £11,000. The Whist Group, The North Singers, Age Cymru and Yoga groups provide together provide over half the group income and the Committee was very grateful for their support. The Quiz and Curry Night was really popular and good for fund raising, with great food being provided by Sue Flower. Puttin'on the Ritz, organised by Jane Brackstone and Sue Curphey and the Big Breakfast organised by Luisa Sadler had also been very successful. The Glade Tavern provided great food, atmosphere and great additions to funds. The 100 Club now has 62 members. It was noted that TUC also provides funding and they were thanked for this. The Chair thanked Marilyn for her financial oversight throughout the year and the very detailed report.

11. Election to Committee. Three committee members had retired during the year, Helen King, Ruth Williams and Sue Flower, They were all thanked for their input particularly Sue who had served for 9 years and raised a great deal of money with her catering input. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers as thanks. The rest of the Committee were happy to stand for re-election. Acceptance was proposed by Graham Agg, seconded by Bill Parnell and carried unanimously. Three new members were happy to join the Committee: Lisa Dorel, Maria Ricketts and Rachel Widdicks. Acceptance was proposed by Sue Agg, seconded by Clark Atkinson and carried unanimously.

The Annual General Meeting then ended, followed by the 100 Club draw.

100 Club: first prize: Tina Chapman; second prize: Kay Bowen.

The evening ended with a vote of thanks to the Committee.