

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Monday 30th January 2017 held at the Old School Hall, Bethlehem

Present: Mary McKinny, Julia Renshaw, Rosemary Cookson, Vickie Lawday, Sue Lawrence, Wynn Morgan, Flora MacRae Jones, Sue Williams, Geoffrey Williams, Andy Jones, Nick Sales, Christopher Pearson, Fred Hernan, Julie Brennan, Helen Price, Martin Price, Adam Llewellyn, Linda Court, Howard Court, Pam Ellis.

Apologies: Kate de Buriatte, Sharon Conlan, Ann Harris, Gareth & Mary Thomas.

Minutes of the last AGM were read & agreed. There were no matters arising.

Annual Report: Des first of all thanked everyone for their help and support over the last year, particularly to Flora for her work as Treasurer, and especially for agreeing to continue in this role. Andy has also been involved in Committee meetings and continues to look after the Hall each week, and again has said he will continue to do this in the coming year which is very helpful. Des also thanked Julie, Mary & Julia, Helen & Martin, Chris & Jane, Sharon & Nick, Pam for her culinary help, as well as various other people who always turn out to help when events are held in the Old School Hall.

He also thanked all those who were on the coffee rota during December in the run up to Christmas, and this was highlighted by the amount of money the "cafe" generated which was over £600. Llandeilo PO no longer offer the Bethlehem stamp so we had more visitors coming to the village for our alternative stamp. Mary mentioned that the Post Office issues First Day stamps in December, all of which say Bethlehem + the year, but the village has not so far got involved in this. However it may be possible to get the old PO stamp back now it is not used - something for the new Committee to consider.

Hiring the Hall has increased over the last 12 months and there is a good income from the various groups who use the Hall regularly - yoga once a week, the Quiz every month, the Crochet & Craft Club every month as well as the Sewing Group who use the Hall once or twice a month, in addition to other locals who use the Hall for rehearsals, dance, etc.

Various events were put on during the year, and all were profitable. Six films were shown, there was a Plant Swap afternoon, a Wine Tasting evening, the Summer BBQ, the Howden Jones concert in April as well as the 'Music in Bethlehem' pop & rock concert in November, the Cyclists Cafe also in November and finally our Mini Christmas Fayre in December. All were well attended and helped to pay the bills.

The income from the above events enabled us to put on a Summer party for the local children (this year there was no Sports Day as it was difficult to find a suitable field) plus a Christmas party when Father Christmas appeared giving presents to around 16 youngsters! Our thanks to Flora, Andy and other parents for organising this.

One significant purchase for the Hall is a modern music centre which has replaced the old ghetto blaster!

Post Office - This is finally closing on 14th February and an hour a week mobile service will operate instead. There was a discussion regarding the contents of the room and it was established the counter belongs to the Hall, but there is uncertainty as to who has ownership of the rest. Vickie has

offered to speak to Geraint (Llandeilo Postmaster) about this. The incoming Committee will need to decide what should happen to the building.

Bank - Des mentioned that he and Flora were looking to change to the Charity Bank as our current bank (Barclays) does not allow payments that need 2 signatures to be made online and this sometimes leads to an additional charge being levied. This needs to be considered in the coming months.

Repairs - Des has painted the outside doors with Sickens paint. Wynn Morgan changed the lock on the inside door and offered to change the locks on the front door too, as well as make a new gate to fit the doorway to the boiler at the rear of the Hall. Unfortunately the Llangadog carpenter who has been promising to mend the raised floor has let us down, despite promising to finish the job before the AGM.

Finally Des confirmed that he and Libby will not be standing for re-election to the Committee. They will happily pass over the database to a member of the new Committee so notices can be sent out regarding forthcoming events, etc, subject to assurances that addresses will not be passed to other organizations without the consent of the holders. Des & Libby would continue to use it to communicate with the oil ordering & other information, e.g. lost dogs/cats, etc. Everyone on the database will be informed of this change and given the chance to withdraw their name if they do not want their address transferred. This is necessary to comply with data protection rules.

Treasurer's Report

Flora produced a comprehensive summary of our annual finances saying it was another successful year as there was an excess of income over expenditure of around £2000, despite the annual Post Office revenue being down. This is mainly due to additional hall hire and the various events being profitable, as well as one of the marquees being sold. There is now a balance of over £9000 so in the short term the Hall can continue to pay for its upkeep (insurance, licenses, cleaning, etc.). Flora received the outstanding Post Office money by cheque recently so this should show in the Hall account during January, leaving a small amount to be paid by the time the PO closes next month.

Election of Officers

Flora is willing to continue as Treasurer, and Andy Jones will continue with his role looking after the Hall, Vickie kindly offered to take over the database and confirmed she is still a Trustee, submitting annual accounts to Companies House, etc. The other Trustees are Daffyd Evans and William (Lyn) Davies. Vickie also said she will continue with the Bethlehem Facebook page, and Sue Lawrence offered to help with this and to use Twitter if this would be useful.

In addition Vickie offered to be co-signatory at the bank now Des is standing down, and she will arrange this with Flora and the bank.

However no-one was willing to become Hall Manager and there was much discussion about what should happen. It was finally agreed:

- to buy a new key safe to keep outside the front door and the code would be issued to anyone hiring the hall. They must remember to leave the key inside this when they lock up. The code would be changed monthly for security purposes.
- to buy a small lock up postbox to erect in the kitchen. Anyone hiring the hall will be asked to put their payment inside an envelope with their name on the outside and post it into this postbox.

Sue Lawrence said she would take bookings for the next 6 months, although Vickie felt someone living near the centre of the village would be more suitable. Flora offered, but as she is also Treasurer and has 3 children this was thought to be too much to expect. Sue Williams said there should be a co-ordinator as well as Treasurer & Hall Manager, but no-one volunteered. After much discussion Sue Lawrence said she would be chief organiser for the next 6 months and will meet with Vickie as well as Flora and Andy in the next two to three weeks.

Any Other Business

Des agreed to teach someone how to use the projector if they want to show a film in the Hall, and he would also be willing to show a film or two during the year.

It was suggested different individuals could arrange events, and Rosemary said she and Linda could organise the Plant Swap in the summer. In addition we received an offer from Jane Ryall to help organise Sports Day in the summer, and other people have also volunteered to help out at other events during the year.

Finally a Kate Glanville special plate was given to an embarrassed Des & Libby to thank them for their work promoting the Old School over the previous few years. A huge surprise but very gratefully received! They would also like to thank everyone for their support while they were involved in the Association - it makes a big difference to anyone who is trying to organise an event.