

Chairman's Report – 2nd February 2015

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen for coming to our Annual General meeting tonight. This is my fourth report to the Glass Community Association AGM, and I'm happy to report this year has been as successful and good fun as ever. If anything it was more innovative and exciting than ever.

Last January we began with our bi-annual Burns supper. It was an excellent night with 80 folks. Many thanks to Nicola Wordie who piped in the haggis – we definitely have the most gorgeous piper in Scotland. We were delighted to have Rick Newman to address the haggis and Hugh Montgomery to say grace. Tom McWilliam was just the perfect gentleman to give a toast to the lassies and the inimitable Ruth Wright gave the reply – fit for Tom any day. The fabulous music for the dancing was provided by the Strathspey fiddlers.

The evenings of the 28th of February and the 1st of March 2014 were the sell-out 2-night See Thru Productions "You Must Remember This". If you can excuse my slight bias - the production was conceived, written, produced and directed solely by the Glass community, and I doubt if you will ever see this quality from any other amateur troop – anywhere. Everything about it was quite stunning. It was funny, tragic, terrifying and heart-warming.

On the 8th March we held a Youngsters Disco, and able to use the lighting and sound systems from the earlier play, it was well attended and great fun.

On April 20th there was the early Sunday morning Easter service at the Kirk, the traditional 7.30am slot led by Father Tom.

ON May 13th Glass SWRI held an open evening musical event, another very successful evening.

Saturday June 8th was Sponsored walk day, huge thanks again to Alan Duff once again for organising the walk. Also to the chef's on the BBQ, Gavin West, Eion Harrold and the Wordie family. It was a great day that just about stayed dry right up to the last minute, £1,350 was raised at the walk of which £500 was donated to Scotts hospital.

The workshops began in March for the play "Who killed the Cock of the noth" for 3 performances held at Huntly Castle on the 26/27/28 of June. It was a long spring of hard work for the See Thru Productions troop and all of the supporting crew. Many thanks are due to lots of people and to mention one or two means having to list everyone who was involved, because it was a huge team effort – anyway, we know who you all are. It was an excellent and innovative production once again. On the 25th October there was a wee film showing of the play in the hall, which brought back some memories.

On the 24th August we held the fabulous annual duck race which made £390 after expenses. Thanks to all concerned for the loan of ducks, diggers, waders and nets. We also welcomed back the 'leisure hunt' which raised £70, a bit of fun with tea and biscuits in the hall after the duck race.

The Winners Ducks

1st Philip Morrison Huntly

2nd Jimmy Farquhar Glass

3rd Youngson (c/o Alison Sellar)

Winners Leisure Hunt

1st Frances and Eoin Harrold and team

2nd Alan Duff and team

3rd Jamie Wilkinson and team

Unfortunately the Aswanley horse trials were cancelled due to inclement weather.

On 27th September we were back indoors for the Quiz night. A great success of applied brain power, hilarity and competition between 15 tables. The winners by the narrowest of squeaks was Anne Forbes and her team – her team always seems to win by the narrowest of squeaks, a well better luck next time. The Quiz raised £351.

The annual Coffee morning to be held in Stewarts hall was cancelled due to refurbishment of the kitchen. So instead your committee organised soup sweet lunch in Glass hall on the 9th November, followed by teas after the remembrance service. The remembrance service was bit special being the centenary of the start of the Great War and the open hall and teas afterwards helped to make our remembrance that wee bit more special. The Soup and sweet and cards raised £390 (we also sold packs of 5 Christmas cards with photos from people in the community).

October was the start of a new craft club where people can go along to work on their own craft projects and share their talents. The meetings are around once a fortnight on Sunday afternoons.

6th December was the Family Ceilidh, a lovely evening of eating the most wonderful main course and sweet provided by the dancers; and, dancing ably prompted by Mike Tait for those of us who don't know their Posties Jig from their Duke of Perth. £370 was raised after expenses.

On the 14th December we held a soup and sweet lunch with Santa Claus. We raised £237.50.

On the 21st December was our annual carol singing round the community. It's always a great event and I'm always taken aback by how many folks turn up to sing, including drivers, and those who make soup to warm up cold bairns after up to three hours out singing. The money raised was a magnificent £ 441 many thanks to all in the community who donated. A donation will be made to Aberdeenshire Young Carers in the Huntly area.

On Christmas Eve we had a carol service at the kirk. Thanks are due to Father Tom, Christine, Ted and Hilda. A retiring collection amounted to £185.40 for Oxfam for the Ebola crises.

Throughout the year we also worked away at thinking about the best way to upgrade the hall and this work is ongoing. We think that the best way forward is to look seriously at the feasibility of building a new hall fit for the future and we are currently asking for outline ideas/drawings from architects. So this year we will be asking the community to decide what the best outline design will be and we will take this forward through a process including funding, permissions etc. We will keep you all posted on this.

Many other thanks are due.

To Sonsi Reeve who cleans the hall and does a great job. Sonsi is always such an enthusiastic supporter of the various events and so has a real attachment to keeping the hall spic and span. Many thanks Sonsi.

To Graham Archer who works away in the background keeping the web pages fresh and appealing, they are a real asset. Many thanks Graham, what you do is greatly appreciated.

The Committee; it just would not be possible to run so many excellent events without them. I am always taken aback by their enthusiasm when turning up, organising and providing everything from raffle prizes, wonderful bakes and cups of tea, soup and so on.

A huge thanks to Rachel West who is our treasurer, making sure our finances are handled properly and for preparing the accounts. Also to Atholl Scott who certify the accounts.

Not least, on behalf of the whole community I would like to thank Margo for the power of work she does, her diligence and huge passion for the community and making sure everything is done correctly and on time. We all owe you a debt of gratitude.

Bob Yuill. 20th January 2014