

Chairman's report 28th January 2013

I think this past year has been one of the busiest for the Community Association, it certainly wasn't the best weather wise, but we made it up with the warmth of the Community itself.

Our year got under way with the Burns supper on Saturday 28th January. Margaret Slorach collected the haggis from Forbes Raeburn the butcher. Nicola Wordie piped in Haggis, Alan Duff was the butler. The Address to a Haggis was recited by Ewan Gordon. Mike Tait proposed a toast lassies and Lilian Cameron replied.

On Easter Saturday 31st March an Easter event was arranged by Rachel West and Gerry Anderson, who organised and managed an afternoon of activities and served tea and cakes. Great fun had by all.

This year was the Queens Diamond Jubilee. For the jubilee the community held a street party, games and a competition at the Hall on Sunday 3rd June. The competition was to prepare an image of the queen. 1st prize went to -Janette (Huntly Vet) 2nd – Rachel West and Joanne Wilson, 3rd Gilli Hearn. The Quiz was won by Mr and Mrs Morris Young and Jodi. I can't remember who won all the games prizes – but lots of us got wet with water bombs. We had a great picnic outside the hall on two very long tables, it was a bit cold though. But warmed up with champagne – helped by a generous donation from James Ingleby the Lord Lieutenant. I reckon that strawberries and cream taste better outside on cold days anyway. All of the committee, especially Margo Wordie, Alan Duff and Rachel West did a great job organising.

The sponsored walk was Sunday 17th June, which as always was superbly organised by Alan Duff. The walk by 33 very fit walkers was from somewhere around Smallburn over the hill to Glass. Amazingly it stayed dry for the walk, but on return for the bbq it rained! The walk raised £1503.00. £250 was donated to Huntly Mental Health and £250 was donated to Friends of Jubilee Hospital.

We held the duck race and 'Go Quackers' competition on Sunday 19th August. The Duck race winners were 1st Margaret Slorach, 2nd Sophie Piper, 3rd Sheila Macleod. The Go Quackers competition which was to make or paint anything that resembled a duck was won by 1st Lizzie Montgomery, 2nd Derek and Paddy Dickson, 3rd equal- Rachel West and Joanne Wilson. The duck race raised £378.00 from 500 duck tickets sold. Many thanks especially to Lilian Cameron organiser.

Aswanley horse trails were held on Saturday 8th September, which was the first really fine day we had. £412 was raised from sale of tea and cakes. Especial thanks are due to Pam Ingleby for her invitation to the Community to hold the tea and cakes table. I would like to thank Dorothy Ross Archer and Margo for all their work and also all the many bakers.

Our Coffee morning slot at the Stewarts Hall Huntly was Saturday 29th September. We raised £715.00 slightly up on last year. Special thanks to Frances Harrold and Margo Wordie and all the folks who donated cakes and bottles and raffles etc.

This year's new event was from the Drama Club who presented 'Murder in Glass' on Saturday 6th October. It was a great event - a sell out – and hugely appreciated by the audience. The event raised £350.00 from ticket sales and the raffle. The enthusiastic production team were Alison Sellar, Petra Pennington and Hilary Wilkinson - and off course all the drama players and backstage staff have to be congratulated.

There was a wee bonfire and fireworks Monday 5th November, at Roslea, which had lots of young bairns and adults.

Quiz night was Saturday 17th November. A very hard fought quiz with extra questions required to get the winning team! Fiona Hill's team were victorious! £225 was raised. Many thanks to Sue Brown for organising, to our ever patient quizmaster Nick Forbes and scorer Robin Pakeman.

The other new event for the year was the Reels night and supper on Saturday 1st December. It was great night of food and dance thanks to Mike Tait and Fiona Riley for organising and ticket selling, and Frank Thomson Dance band. Raffle and ticket sales raised £360.00

Carol singing Sunday 23rd December. It was a very fine night, not too cold and it was dry no snow, with plenty of singers and drivers which was great. As always the Community gives a wee Christmas gift to retired folks of a Christmas cake and a bottle of sherry. We were delighted to have the cake donated by Sinclairs of Rhynie- many thanks to them. The carol singers raised £373, we have given £50 to playgroup and it is proposed we give will give £200 or so to Huntly Cancer support.

Ken Hamilton and friends organised a Christmas Eve service at Glass Kirk which was very well attended. Donations of £212 were received, which will all go to the Aberdeenshire flood victims. Thanks also to Mr & Mrs Andrews for letting us use the Kirk.

On Sunday afternoon the 20th January 2013 we held the junior talent show, with eight superb acts who put their heart and soul into their performances to a full hall of a very enthusiastic audience. The winners were 'Liam and his lassies' dancing and drumming – that was Liam McIntosh on drum (who was the winner 2 years ago) Scout Knight, Anneliese Green and Charlotte Stewart, 2nd was Lizzie Montgomery who played the flute, and 3rd was Angus Montgomerie who played the drum – very noisily. Also taking part were Kitty Sykes on the violin; A singing trio - Harriet and Amelia Hearnnes and Tegan Welford; Sidney strong who sang Impossible by Shontelle; the singing duet Lola & Madison Brown; Carrie McGrath & Emma Simpson who acted their own play 'Old Life'. Many thanks to Anne Forbes who organised the event. It was free event tea and cakes served so many thanks too to the bakers and helpers.

Last but not least our wonderful hall cleaner, Rita retired this year. We gave Rita a card and a wee something to say thanks. I am delighted that Sonsi Reeve has taken up mantle. Sonsi is an enthusiastic supporter of the Community, and quite an actress in the Dram club, so thanks Sonsi for agreeing to clean the hall.

Can I also thanks Graham Archer for keeping the web page up and running. It's an easy thing to say 'we should have a website' but another to keep it maintained and fresh. So thanks to Graham – its greatly appreciated.

It's been a very busy and eventful year, which wouldn't have been possible without an excellent Committee. It's amazing how much enthusiasm they have and commitment to turning up, organising and providing so much, from their time to raffle prizes to countless bakes and cups of tea, soup and so on. On behalf of the Community I would like to thank them so much for their continuing support.

Also a big thank you to Ken Hamilton, who has kept all of our finances in excellent order. We are all sorry to know that Ken and Fiona are leaving for the far north west - Lochinver – which is sadly our loss and their communities gain. So, thanks to Ken for all your help and support over very many years.

Last, but most importantly, we have the great privilege to have Margo as our secretary. Margo is a tremendous anchor for the community, the committee and all the activities. I have been very privileged as a Chairman to have Margo as a Secretary – for which I will be forever grateful.

So I propose huge thanks to Margo and all of the committee and a multitude of other supporters for your support during the year.

Bob Yuill