

Chairman's Report – 18th January 2016

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen for coming to our Annual General meeting tonight. This is my fifth report to the Glass Community Association AGM, and I'm delighted to report this year has been busier than ever with a terrific range of events to appeal to everyone in the community. In fact, as well as the bowling and badminton clubs, the SWRI, walking group, craft club – on average we had a unique event about every 6 weeks.

I haven't included the amounts of money raised for every event, with some exceptions, as they are detailed in the accounts – all 17 of them.

We started our year with It's Top of the Pops - Kelly's eye - Nelson's column – it was a number 1 Bingo night on the 28th February that was a great hit with lots of good fun and vowed to be repeated.

Petra and Darren organised the Glass Film premiere and festival on 28th March showing the films made by Glass residents. It was an absolutely terrific night again with all the trimmings including the red carpet. The evening concluded with the traditional after party for all the stars, directors, producers and punters alike. It was an enormous effort by the organisers, the film makers and producers.

See thru productions produced the play Harvey – the six foot three and one half inch tall imaginary white rabbit - which staged on the 24 and 25th of April. This play, I'm sure, was the most demanding so far on our actors, director and production team. Particularly the imagination to direct this complex play on such a wee stage and back room. It was terrific yet again, playing to a full house on both nights, what a lot of work - well done by everyone.

A photo workshop and walk on a lovely sunny day with lots of photos taken was led by Natalie on the 23rd May. It will be really fine to progress this and maybe develop a wee club using various media and technology to save/view these pictures.

On the 31st May we had our soup and sweet with the fantastic return of the Plant Sale. The school were involved in this event also selling plants for charity. Many thanks to everyone who was involved and supported this event once again, particularly Jamie for organising the plants.

There was the lovely musical afternoon with Choral singing held on the 14th June, which was very well attended and a superb afternoon tea was served at the interval.

We had a fine day, luckily after all the rain, for the sponsored walk from the Cabrach back to the hall on the 28th June. Again many thanks to Alan for organising this great event once again. The walk raised £1,553 of which £250 is donated to the Huntly and Area Cancer Support centre. The BBQ was once again a great hit with our resident barbeque chefs George and James Wordie, many thanks to them and Eoin for the use of his BBQ.

For the first time this year we had an 'open gardens' afternoon. It was a lovely day where folks opened their gardens for the others in Glass to have a walk round and have a chat about plants etc., with some refreshments. Many thanks to all those who opened their gardens – they were just lovely with hidden gems.

Once again we were lucky with the weather for the annual duck race on the 23rd August. As well as ducks in the water we had a photo competition and a leisure hunt. It was a super afternoon with tea and biscuits served during the results. The winners were

Ducks' 1 Gavin West, 2 Jolyen Robinson, 3 Christine Yuill.

Photo's:

Adults, 1 Cheryl De'Ath, 2 Hugh Christie, 3 Graham Dow.

Children 1 Nicola Wordie, 2 Amelia Hearn, 3 Amelia Hearn.

Leisure Hunt: 1 Marianne Duncan & team. 2 Fiona Hill & Team. 3 Jamie Wilkinson & Team.

Jamie and Hugh were the quiz masters and Fiona recorded the scores at our famous, or is it now infamous Glass Quiz night. It was a great night once again with a 14 tables competing. The Anne Forbes team was the winning team, again! Well done Anne.

Our Coffee morning held at the Stuarts Hall raised just under £700, a busy morning once again and well supported by everyone. Huge thanks to all the helpers and providers of bakes and bottles and raffles.

For our Remembrance Sunday on the 8th of Nov with the Piper, we again organised coffees followed by a soup and sweet. It was all very well attended and I'm sure greatly appreciated by the community.

St Andrews Night was a special family night with music and entertainment from the Strathspey Fiddlers. Heaps of our younger folks came along to the event which was great.

Glass Church Christmas Concert Saturday 12th December a lovely evening of entertainment, mulled wine and mince pies. £133.59 was donated to the Sandpiper trust. The aim of the Sandpiper Trust is to help save lives in Scotland by improving immediate care especially in the remote and rural areas.

Christmas Carols around Glass on Sunday 20th December raised £441 - a terrific amount, this will be shared between the Red Cross shop in Huntly, who celebrated 20 years in Huntly in 2015, and Association funds.

We had a Hogmanay party again after a few years absence. Many thanks for those who took the time and effort to organise, never easy at that time of year, especially all the folks who brought food for an amazing buffet meal, to those who provided the ceilidh entertainment and sketches. It was a great night with a dozen or so full tables for supper and dancing until the wee small hours! Well about 4am from memory!

I just want to mention Andy Dickson who many of you will know. Andy collapsed at a badminton club night, and we are hugely grateful for the efforts of the folks who did their level best to help Andy until the paramedics arrived. Unfortunately Andy has been left with brain damage and had to leave our community for care elsewhere, and we miss him. I can only wish him and his family on behalf of our community the very best for some improvement over time to come.

Now we don't know whether a defibrillator would have been of any use to Andy. But the British Heart Foundation promotes their installation in public places. They are simple to use and safe. The machine gives clear spoken instructions and users don't need training to use one. (But it will be great to encourage folks to have some training) Once in position, the defibrillator detects the heart's rhythm and it won't deliver a shock unless one is needed. Margo has carried out a bit of research and we have decided to get one using some of the funds from the sponsored walk.

Now many other thanks are due. I am not going to apologise for cutting and pasting last year's thanks! because they are all equally due this year.

To 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.

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, and I know some of our neighbouring communities are quite jealous. Many thanks Graham, what you do is greatly appreciated.

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.

Thanks

Bob Yuill

18/01/2016