

Chairman's report 16th January 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen it is a delight to welcome you all here tonight. This is my 6th report to the Glass Community Association AGM, and I am delighted to say that 2016 was an exciting and fun filled year, with our customary range of super events that your Community Association committee tirelessly organises on behalf of the whole community.

Our year off course started way back in December 2015; if you can remember that far back. The Glass Kirk Christmas Concert on Saturday 12th December was a great night of entertainment, and thanks to Fiona Hill who arranged fabulous performers. The evening was complete with mulled wine and mince pies. £133.59 was raised for the Sandpiper trust who provide pre-hospital emergency support and care in rural Scotland.

On Sunday 20th December the community all clubbed together for our Christmas Carols around Glass. It is a tremendous effort, not only by all of the adults and children who sing, but the drivers and soup makers and most importantly the houses in the community who receive the carol singers and give so generously. £450 was raised in 2015, which was shared with the Red Cross shop in Huntly who celebrated 20 years in Huntly in 2015 and the rest retained for community funds.

Our 2015 Hogmanay party on Thursday 31st December (when else?) was a great night with around 80 people for supper and dancing until the wee small hours!

Into 2016 now and the first event of the year was the Burns Supper held on Saturday 30th January, again around 80 people celebrated our bard. It was another great evening in Glass and our resident thespians, with See Thru Productions, performed an evening of comedy and song sketches after supper, all set in the "Droothy Neebour's" bar on stage.

On the 27th Feb it was dirty knees all the threes and two fat ladies 88 at our Bingo night. We had a great turnout that evening full of prizes. A good turnout of about 40 people for a fun evening, thanks to Hugh for calling the numbers.

On the 19th March we had our curry night. We have become amazingly practiced around Glass at preparing the most amazing food and bringing it piping hot to the hall to share. Our curry night provided so many fabulous dishes, it was a tremendous evening.

On the 27th March the Easter service attracted a few brave soles who attended the outside service at the church. Many thanks to Father Tom for taking the service.

April the 21st was our Queens 'real' 90th Birthday and with the generosity of James and Moira Ingleby we celebrated with a Bonfire in the field opposite the Hall, a great success with around 70 folks. James and Moira provided drinks, food, the bonfire and fireworks. Many thanks to them.

Our resident thespians, Thru Productions, presented 'Convivial Pursuits ... a comedy', well a farce perhaps, on the evenings of the 29th and 30th of April. Even although I say it myself, it was an eccentrically funny show again. With a full house on both nights that overall raised about £1,400.

On the 3rd May the SWI Aurora Choir around 70 ladies from various rural attended, another great success.

Elections held on the 5th May, always a boost to the rental income.

Our plant sale/soup/sweet and gardening swop was held on the 29th May, on a very hot Sunday (was it the only one?) with about 44 folks for lunch. Fantastic it raised about £335.

Our next event, where our thanks are due to Alan once again for organising our sponsored walk on the 19th June. The terrific amount of £1551.00 was raised. This year a donation of £250 was given to Networks of Wellbeing in Huntly, who promote and support people in improving their mental health and wellbeing in and around Huntly.

This was the second year of a very unique event held on the 3rd July, which is our Open Gardens in Glass. The terrific visits this year were to Steve and Susan Brown, to Anne & Nick Forbes (where teas were served) to the Wilkinson's all four of them now! to Blairmore house and Sally & Tom Macpherson. It is a great way to spend an early summers day seeing and discussing our lovely gardens and take in the countryside.

The year the annual Duck race was held on the 21st August and our leisure hunt took us to Walla Kirk. The duck race raised £609 raised after expenses. The leisure hunt a little over a fiver perhaps?! There was a great turn out on the day at the duck race and for the answers to the leisure hunt, with a duck themed fancy dress, and I must mention the great effort from 3 of our youngsters, Ailsa Gordon Duff, Kirsten and Anna West who all dressed up for the occasion.

On the 26th August our New Hall planning application was submitted to Aberdeenshire council.

On the 26th August we also heard that we were to receive British Heart Foundation funding for a Defibrillator, which is now on the outside wall blinking away. We received terrific support for the Defibrillator including £500 received from Strathbogie CC from Clashindarroch Micro grants for the Defib cabinet, also a £600 anonymous donation to aid purchase of defib - grateful thanks, also Strathbogie CC £160 towards electrical costs, and £200 from Pipeline Technique; this provides us with money to guarantee that we keep up with ongoing costs and training – many thanks to everyone involved and particularly to Margo who did a huge amount of work to organise.

The Scottish Woman's Institute began their regular meetings on the 1st September and we are always delighted to welcome them back after their summer break.

This year on the 3rd September, at last we had fine weather for the Aswanley Horse Trials. Our community provide a table with tea/coffee and cake at the kind invitation of Pam and Jack. It was a lovely day and a great success with £354.03 raised, thanks to all for donations.

Our annual quiz night was held on the 24th September. There were slightly fewer tables this year but a good night Glass Quiz. The winning team was Steve Browns who has been carefully honing the perfect team over the years to make his winning bid.

The Community Association coffee morning on the 8th October in the Stewarts Hall, which is the most wonderful of institutions, raised approx. £680 after hall charges. It's always a fine morning of chat, raffles, bottle stall, coffee and butteries, one special attraction provided by Glass are the vegetables provided for sale, they are really appreciated and avidly bought by folks looking for that extra flavour.

On the 18th October Bowling began and the on the 26th of October Badminton began – great to see these two clubs using the hall again for the winter.

On the 11th November we held a public training night about how to use our newly installed defibrillator, a fine night and great to see so many people attending.

For our Remembrance service held on the 13th November at the war memorial, the Community Association provides an open hall before and after the service with coffees and teas, soup and sweet provided. It works really well around 50 folks attending. Thanks to all who organise and give of their time on a Sunday.

On the 23rd of November 2016 we received our planning approval for a new Hall. It took only 3 months for us to receive our permission, a great job. I have to thank everyone in the community who took the time to choose our plan and architects, who provided a great amount of the most helpful suggestions about the design of the new hall. Because we were able to show the amount of our community engagement and interaction it just helped make the whole planning process so much easier so a big thanks to everyone.

The family ceilidh and fiddlers was held on the 26th November, this is a free event. The costs of about £100 are covered by the raffle, thanks for your generosity. The great thing is that it attracts a young crowd of folks.

Now many other thanks are due and for the slightly modified 'cut and paste' section – which must not distract from my sincerity.

To the Committee; it is just not possible to run so many excellent events without such an enthusiastic committee. I am always taken aback by their enthusiasm when turning up, not only to the committee meetings during the year to discuss and agree our events, but in organising and managing each event, 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. This Autumn she has just had an operation to her carpal tunnels, one hand at a time! so very shortly she will have the full use of both hands again – hurrah! 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 to our community, and I know that many 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.

Bob Yuill, Chairman, 16th January 2016