

Chairman's report 12th February 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen it is, as always, a delight to welcome you all here tonight. This is my 7th report to the Glass Community Association AGM, and I am delighted to say that 2017 was a fun packed year, with our expected range of splendid events that your Community Association committee assiduously organise on behalf of the whole community.

Our year began way back in December 2016; I hope you can remember that far back. On the 18th December 2016, we had our carol singing around Glass and raised the fantastic sum of £475 plus about ½ a cwt of sweeties to fill all the festive hats. It is, as always, 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. £200 of the money raised was given to the British Heart Foundation.

The Glass Kirk Christmas eve service, ably led by Father Tom, was very well attended, and always a great start to the Christmas festivities. £178 was raised and provided to Crisis, the national charity for homeless folks.

Our 2016 Hogmanay party on Thursday 31st December (when else?) was a great night with around 100 people for supper and dancing until the wee small hours! One of the highlights was the paper cannons on the stoke of midnight blowing one of the light covers off and landing on Mrs Wordie – we need to double up our efforts on health and safety.

Our 2017 AGM was early for some reason, held on the 16th January – or are we late this year?

The 2 – 4th March our Glass Am Dram – See Thru Productions, put on their 'Allo 'Allo concert production – great evenings that required a huge amount of effort, from building sets, to special effects, sound, costumes etc. Many thanks to all concerned and Alison Sellar in particular who has the enormous patience required to herd the cats from Glass. Even with large expenses, especially the costumes the surplus remaining was £68, terrific for such a wee venue.

On the 25th March we had our curry night. A slightly smaller crowd this year, but the community is remarkably practiced at preparing the most amazing food and bringing it piping hot to the hall to share. Our curry night provided so many marvellously tasty dishes, it was a terrific evening.

3rd May the Scottish Women's Institute held their open night with 80 ladies watching and soaking up a very fine floral art demonstration.

Elections held on the 4th May, always a boost to the rental income. We can't have enough elections!!

A small soup and sweet was held on the 21st May – a very social afternoon.

18th June was our sponsored walk day raising approximately £1,100 with £250 provided to the Huntly Day care club. This year again was organised by Alan Duff and around 30 walkers were dropped off on the Corsemal and walked back over the hills to Glass with lovely views to Auchindoun Castle. A great day and many walkers returning to a lovely BBQ at the hall. Thanks again to the Wordies for cooking and Eoin on back up.

2nd September about £400 was raised at Aswanley horse trials, from selling lots good tray bakes, cakes tea and coffee. It was a lovely day of weather providing a good turnout of competitors and supporters. Thanks to all the bakers and helpers on the stall, and also to Pam for inviting the community to contribute to the day and raise money this way, it's much appreciated.

10th September was the date of the delayed duck race - all ducks sold, £500 of ticket sales. The water was high and the duck swam very fast down the small stretch of the Markie burn, followed by the wet sweepers. This year we didn't have another activity at the hall but we had a good turnout for very fine tea and cakes! The winners this year were, 1st Ticket from D Ross Archer, 2nd George Wordie, 3rd Louise Atkinson – all locals this year.

On the 27th and 28th October our Glass Am Dram – See Thru Productions - took their 'Allo 'Allo production on tour to the Aberdeen Arts Centre – again, hilarious evenings with a Saturday Matinee. It was an even 'huge-er' amount of effort, from building even bigger sets, special effects, sound, costumes etc. All the rehearsals were done here in Glass, and as an indicator of the size of the stage it's not far off the size of the Glass hall floor area here. I am not that sure what the final finances have worked out at, but pretty much breakeven I think.

The Community Association coffee morning on the 4th November in the Stewarts Hall, which is the most wonderful of institutions, raised approx. £636 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. Again a special thanks to all who assist with this morning.

October sees the Bowling and Badminton begin again – great to see these two clubs using the hall again for the winter.

For our Remembrance service held on the 12th 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. This year raised £321 of which £100 is donated to Poppy Scotland.

Saturday 25th November, Glass Quiz 10 tables and the winning team of Alison & John, Lillian & Vince, Cheryl & Mark. Many thanks to the quiz masters – Fiona Hugh and Jamie, this year there were some great rounds, a favourite was name that tune in a very few notes, terrific fun. £138 raised.

So, back round to where we nearly started – on 17th December Carols around Glass, great turnout of singers and houses to receive, but still very icy so some house not visited. 21 gifts were delivered to the more senior folks in the community. We raised £450 of which £200 to Quarriers Scotland – ahead of time so that the can use the cash to purchase presents for vulnerable children.

The Christmas Eve Service in Glass Church was again led by Father Tom, great turnout with well over 60 folks, £230 donated and sent to Crisis.

Hogmanay this year was a special evening in the Hall all based on a Circus theme. Natalie and her Mum did a great job decorating the whole of the Hall to look like the inside of a circus tent, some special entertainment was provided by the folks of Glass – huge hilarity. Special thanks to Rachel for organising

Lastly, I have many thanks to give:

To the Committee; it is just not possible to run so many excellent events without such an enthusiastic committee. Their enthusiasm and patience, 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 is unwavering.

This year Alan Duff is retiring from the Committee, I hope Alan only for a short while. A very special thankyou from all of the committee for all the help you have given, especially the sponsored walk. We'll miss you on the committee.

This year also a great thanks to Alison Sellar and her team for re decorating and organising the installation of the new kitchen.

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

Again, to Graham Archer who quietly 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, 12th February 2018