

Chairman's report 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen of Glass, on behalf of the committee, I am delighted to welcome you all here tonight. You will be relieved to see a return to some gentler winter weather and stretching days.

This is my 8th report to the Glass Community Association AGM, and I am thrilled to say that 2018 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.

Unfortunately, our first event of the year (27th January) Burns supper was cancelled due to lack of numbers. I think, to be honest, after the Hogmanay party and the various other Christmas events folks were just a bit exhausted. So, the cancellation is no reflection on folk's enthusiasm.

On the 24th March was a Gin tasting night organised by the Glass school and direction of Rachel Ashley to raise funds. It was a very novel event and such a great night. I am sure many of us will remember, well maybe forgotten due to the circumstance, the importance of an addition of fruits and other flavours to bring the best out of the Gin. I am still a bit traumatised by one gin produced by a pony club? Which tasted of hay and horses – no amount of flavour additive made that one work for me.

The 13th and 14th April saw See Thru productions back in action again – with all scripting, production and direction completely in-house to deliver the 'The Good the Bad and the Ugly' western night. There were many special moments, for example it was the first time See Thru had big sets for our teenagers, and goodness, did they ever pull it off. The first time that we used 'Green Screen' thanks to the talents of Angus Montgomery – to show the baddies being chased through the desert. The unique mix of film and stage production made the whole production that bit special.

A couple of decades since the last one was held in Glass, on the 26th May, we held an auction night (preceded by a bingo session). Some memorable moments included enthusiastic bidding by our youngest community members; there was a eclectic mix of auction items, including trout, pork, trees, daffodils, kindlers, Talisker whisky, body massage, eggs, home cooked meal for two, rock climbing, electric toothbrush, garden bench, topless drive and so many other items – all in all the evening was excellent entertainment, which raised £1106.94 from the auction and £155.44 at the bar.

Our annual Sponsored walk was held on the 1st July raised £1362.11, of this fantastic amount, £680 was donated to the charity Brothers in Arms Scotland who seek to remove a cultural barrier preventing men from seeking help, to believe that they can seek and find help when they need it, so that male suicide can be prevented.

26th August this year's Glass Duck Race raised the princely sum of £ 450. The duck race also provided a wee competition, called, unsurprisingly - 'The Glass Duck race', to draw and or make an interpretation of the Duck Race using any art or craft form. I was a bit blown away by the quality and humour with the entries, and without doubt required real time and effort by the entrants. The competition winners were - Adults - Kay Harrold, - secondary school Kirsten West and primary school Lucy Harrold and Samuel Brokaar, well done to all of them. The winners of the actual duck race were 1st Grania Wilson, 2nd Ciorsdan Brown, 3rd the Sykes Family.

A wee story – Robin Pakemen, one of our perennial heroes who each year stumbles down the middle of the Markie burn to find recalcitrant buried ducks under the burn ledges, slipped deep into the deepest pool and resurfaced without his spectacles on. I don't know if you have seen Robin without his glasses on, he hasn't either by the way! but, to his rescue was Lindsey Hanekon, (I think British Divers Marine Life Rescue) complete with dry suit, mask, snorkel and fins and within minutes the spectacles were re-surfaced for a very happy Robin.

Aswanley horse trials were held on the 1st of September and £429 was raised from selling lots lovely tray bakes, cakes tea and coffee. Thanks to all the bakers and helpers on the stall. It was a lovely day of weather providing a good turnout of competitors and supporters. Unfortunately, this was the last Aswanley horse trails, for a few years at least, so for the record I wish to note a sincere thanks to Pam and family for inviting the community to provide a stall at the many horse trials over the years, and raise money this way, it's so much appreciated.

On the 27th October the Glass Quiz took place with 6 competing tables, 33 people, a slightly smaller crowd than previous to compete answering a terrific mix of questions, engineered by Hugh and Jamie. The winners - Team Robin Pakeman – that's what happens from finding his spectacles.

Thanks are due to the many parents who organised a Halloween party for the bairns, which was a great event by all accounts. Also, to the Glass community guisers who visited many households to scare their recalcitrant spirits away for the year – I heard many of the guisers were particularly scared too.

The remembrance at the Glass war memorial was particularly poignant this year, remembering 100 years ago, on November 11, 1918, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month – millions of men laid down their guns. Thanks are due to the Minister Rev. Calder for conducting the service, the piper Mr Gauld and, Major Tait for laying the wreath. Many thanks to the community for organising a soup and sweet for the 50, or so, who attended the remembrance.



During November the back hall was repainted. A big thank you to Alison for organising the work, with thanks to Pat and Louise for the scaffolding (it's good to know that your own house is finished to be able provide the loan), to George and Alan and Nicola for delivering/returning all the bits and pieces, thanks also to all the helpers, painters, lenders of equipment and those climbing the scaffolding - Rachel Ashley, Gerry, Dave, Tom, Margo, Sue, and Alison.

On 24th November was a fine pub night, organised by Jamie, a enjoyable evening of comradery with games of darts and pool, etc.

On the 23rd December we held our carol singing around Glass, with three touring ensembles of singers. It's such a treat to see this event supported so well by enthusiastic singers young and older; a tremendous effort, not only by the singers, but the drivers and soup makers and most significantly the households in the community who receive the carol singers and give so generously.

The Glass Kirk Christmas eve service, ably led by Father Tom, was very well attended, and always a great start to the Christmas festivities. Thanks to Ted and Hilda for lending the Kirk.

Lastly, I have many thanks to give using the words that are very similar each year, but the sentiment is stronger than ever:

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 attend the many 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.

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 diligently 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 somewhat 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, for her conscientiousness and huge passion for the community, making sure everything is done correctly and on time. We all owe you sincere gratitude.

Bob Yuill, Chairman, 11th February 2019