

Glass Community Association

Chairman's report 20th January 2021

Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to the first ever Glass AGM meeting via zoom.

I hope you are all sitting comfortably at your laptops, phones, PC's. A paper copy of this report may be made available upon request if we can get it too you safely.

Well, I don't think I need to explain in too much detail the past, current and future situation our community has been placed in due to the current world pandemic, corona virus, and all it has unleashed upon us. The only consolation is that every other community in the UK has been confronted with the same set of problems, shutdowns, lockdowns, lack of community events, funding and so on, so it's generally been a case of keeping our heads down in Glass Obeying all current government rules and guide lines on keeping safe at that particular time like social distancing and meetings in particular. With that in mind, meetings and obviously events have been extremely curtailed since March last year.

However, it has by no means been a write off thanks to some fantastic, talented caring and sharing community members which shall be mentioned below.

So, starting back on 22nd December 2019 we gathered for our yearly traditional carol singing event we only ran two routes due to a lack of singers but we managed to raise £390 and more thanks to some very generous donations made afterwards. 18 gifts were delivered. Many thanks to carol singer receivers' donators, drivers, soup makers, singers a tremendous effort was made by all.

The Christmas eve service was held on the 24th December at the Glass Church many thanks again to Mr and Mrs T Andrews for allowing this too take place in such a beautiful church. £327 was donated at the service to 'The Church in Need fund' father Tom chooses this.

On the 31st December Rachel West and team organised and headed a fantastic Hogmanay party in the hall, over 110 people attended, many thanks Rachel, you did us proud again also a huge thanks to the wonderful talented Montgomery family especially Liz and Angus who produced a very funny video clip to the sound of music during the evening also thanks to all others who took part in or created acts or singing.

The 2020 AGM was held on the 3rd February and then soon after this all events were cancelled due to the covid-19 virus outbreak.

Soon after the start of the first lockdown Rachel West decided to setup and run single handily the Glass home delivery fruit and Veg/shopping service to any community member this was coordinated using the what's app group messaging social media service, it was a tremendous success and what a kind thoughtful service to offer to the community all for free (Rachels time, fuel etc) many thanks again Rachel. Rachael Ashley also soon afterwards set up a weekly home bake service which lifted spirits within the community so thanks for that Rachael as well. By mid-July this service was scaled back and stopped as restrictions were lifted but the what's app chat group continued and still does for home baking ideas, plants, gardening.

Following on from the fruit and veg group an idea was spun and circulated around the community via email by Fiona Hill and Rachel West, to create a rural community lockdown book in hardback. People were asked if they wanted to take part by providing, stories, pictures, recipes and general experiences at their homes and how it affected them in the general lockdown. The book was called Behind Glass and it was a great success with some fantastic colour pictures of local areas and houses

and people what a brilliant idea and so a massive thanks to Fiona and Rachel for just about doing the entire project from start to finish themselves this involved a lot of hard work all done for free, some funding was made available (£2900) from Aberdeenshire council Marr district and Cairnie/Glass community fund. To date over 130 books have been sold out of 200 printed.

During the summer we applied for extra community funding made available from Aberdeenshire Council of £10,000 which has greatly helped us with general running costs like cleaning, Electricity etc as there has been no fundraising this year.

By late September with the schools back up and running Glass school were looking/wanting to get back into the hall for cold weather sport and so a strict cleaning schedule was drawn up by Margo Rachel and Sonsi. No other groups or people did or still cannot use the hall this was done to stop contamination. Many thanks to Sonsi again for the 100% effort in keeping the hall clean through the year.

In November Lorna Yuill on behalf of the community arranged an e-bike hire from HDDT. She very kindly looked after the entire project (bookings, demonstrations, maintenance, good routes) this was a tremendous success and a very popular activity within the community. Two electric bikes were available for Residents in Glass for the whole month of November and because it was so popular Lorna managed to get a two-week extension this activity was completely free and was funded by the Cairnie Glass fund. Lorna has now done an application to buy four bikes for the Glass community to hire out for a minimal fee to help residents move over to a more sustainable and healthy way of traveling and exercising via these bikes in the future. A very well-done to Lorna and many thanks for your time and effort well done.

For the 2020 Christmas carol singing event (which was obviously cancelled) Lizz and Angus Montgomery and Fiona very creatively decided to make and produce a carol singing type carry-okie video clip with various community residents participating. This was a fantastic idea and great fun and all took place under social distancing guidelines. The clip was unloaded onto the community website linked to YouTube also the face book page for haugh of glass. Linking in with this and with two very kind anonymous donations of £120 and £50 to the community the committee decided to go ahead with the Christmas gift delivery. A Total of 24 households received the gifts, being resident to quality also one-member must be over 66 and retired. The donations covered the cost of the Prosecco also thanks to Sinclair's Bakery in Huntly who donated the mice pies. Also, a thank you to Rachel West and Margo for delivering these Christmas gifts.

New Hall update. At this moment in time Rachael Ashley is currently applying for charity status with SCIO for the hall ownership on our behalf thank you Rachael for doing this, we currently have ten trustees being Me, Margo, Fiona, Rachel, Jamie, Sue, Frances, Pam, Robin and Rachel. if anybody else in the community wants to get involved or join in the hall committee please get in touch. We are still waiting for the building warrant which should be granted any day soon having been delayed due to the current situation and also a few minor details which had to be changed on the plans (disabled parking spaces moved to near hall also fire exit plans and fire extinguisher points changed) which we have excepted and amended through our architect these costs have already been accounted for. Once the new boundry location and shared costs have been agreed with the new owners (Scott and Johanna Harvey) at Invermarkie Lodge we shall fence off the donated area in the field opposite the hall and plan future tree planting and access options. Many thanks to James and Moira Ingleby again for this very generous donation and their time on this.

The Glass Church update can be found on the Glass community website (hoping to get a charitable trust set up to own run and look after the church if you are interested, please see Mr T Andrews next to the church)

A very warm Welcome to all the latest/newest residents moving into Glass and surrounding area please visit the web site glasscommunityassociation.org for further information about what events we have coming up (in a normal year) and what's going on in Glass also the email service where the secretary can be contacted which is: secretary@glasscommunityassociation.org

We were all very sorry to hear about the sad passing of Tom McWilliam and Stuart Wright who both supported the community in many ways our condolences go out to all the family members and partners.

General Thank You's to:

Firstly, too Eoin Harrold again for providing his time and mini digger for drainage work again at the hall septic tank outflow, the eventual problem was a completely chocked outflow pipe with tree roots in John and Alison Sellars garden. Many thanks to John and Alison for letting us dig up part of their garden and investigate hopefully the damp area in their garden has now been resolved.

Secondly to Brian Shanks for making a weekly mouse trap inspection in the hall.

To Bob and Lorna Yuill for planting, watering and weeding the whisky barrel planters down the side of the hall, the flowers looked wonderful again this year.

To Brodie for strimming/grass cutting on several occasions around the hall this summer.

To Pam Ingleby and Al Raulster for providing and helping with the Christmas tree in Huntly square.

To Sonsi for keeping an eye on the hall.

A big Thanks again to Rachel for being our Treasurer and all the community volunteer work she does.

A big thank you to Graham Archer for keeping the Glass web site going and refreshed and maintained its greatly appreciated so thank you very much on behalf of the community

Lastly a huge thanks to amazing and ever energetic Margo, on behalf of the community, for all her work she does making sure everything is done on time and correctly for the community.

Let's all hope 2021 will return back to normal as quickly as possible

Yours Tom Macpherson, Glass Chairman, January 20th 2021