

Glass Community Association AGM

Chairman's report 20th January 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to the Glass Community Association AGM and chairman's report from December 2020 to January 2022. A paper copy of this report may be made available upon request if you require one.

Due to public meeting restrictions which came into force again due to the second wave of corona virus in November/December 2020 our yearly carol singing event held usually towards the end December was cancelled. A zoom meeting was held on the 18/01/21 followed by our 2021 AGM also on zoom on the 23rd February 2021. Due to this most of the winter (2020/2021) was very quiet and little was able to function or take place in the Hall or community this again affected local community fund raising and general charity donations which extended mostly or predominately up until June. So, on 7th June when it was then possible to have community meetings again, outside to begin with at the hall. During this time a see-through film was made by various community members via zoom meetings which was made available on u tube and the community website in June it was called making a drama out of a Crisis. Lots of thanks to all the Montgomery family especially Fiona and Angus (also past and present community members for their involvement) for their behind the scenes editing and organizing all donations which was over £500:00 went to the Huntly food bank.

On the 15th April our application to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) was accepted.

With the on-going lack of water pressure and water to the hall. Eoin Harrold very kindly came to the rescue and offered his time and mini digger on the 10 June to find and repair a leaking pipe in the top north eastern area of the car park. Many thanks Eoin. Also, a thank you to James McBain for some help with a leaking pipe in the lady's toilet.

Later in the summer a quote was obtained to replumb the gents and lady's toilet which had become badly corroded over the years from Forsyth of Huntly this was accepted by the committee and the repairs were completed in January 2022. Early February Eoin Harrold very kindly offered his time, mini digger, new water pipe and expertise to renew the old copper water supply which feeds the gents and ladies' toilet facilities which ran outside underground from outside the kitchen window to outside the gent's toilet. Many thanks Eoin we all cannot thank you enough.

On the 3rd of July we held an open garden visit day in Glass which was very well attended, many thanks to all the residents who opened their gardens up, I think there were three in total. The last one we held was over 5 years ago.

On the 14th July Statkraft the renewable energy company held a consultation in the hall about the proposed Craigwatch wind farm all community members were invited a second follow up one was held on the 17th November. 16 turbines were initially planned for, but this has now been reduced to 11, Statkraft plans to submit the application early in this year. There is a potential community fund available of £363,000 (£5,000/MW. Total estimate 72 MW per year for the whole 11 turbines) this figure would then be split between 2 or 3 communities so Glass would be one of those communities' benefitting.

At the end of July beginning of August, I got a group of volunteers together to fence the new field boundary area opposite the hall kindly donated by James Ingleby to the community. Many thanks to Paul Reeve, Hugh Montgomery, Robby Laing, Scott Harvey (who donated some of the fencing

materials) and Tom Riddoch who also donated some of the materials. I provided the fencing machine and tractor for the job. Thanks to all who helped.

On the 6th September a small group of community members gathered at the new field opposite the hall to discuss the tree planting arrangements in this area. Steve Brown very kindly attended and gave advice as what to plant and where. Basically, the top area will be mainly planted with fruit trees and the bottom area with native hardwoods or evergreens. I have started this off by planting a beech, hazel and birch sapling (January 25th 2022). Many Thanks to Andrew Mitchel who offered help and supplied some spare tree stakes.

Latest update on the tree planting (9th February 2022) Steve Brown has very kindly donated and planted the remaining two whole areas with a mixture of fruit trees hardwoods and shrubs. Many thanks to Steve for finishing this job off for the community. Guards may be required if deer or hare damage takes place as most of them are not guarded, I have some spare 2nd hand guards.

On the 21st September Jeremy Legget (the new owner at Beldormey castle) very kindly invited local residents to the castle for an informal chat and drinks to hear about his future rewilding plans for the estate and Scotland which was very interesting he has even offered the use of the castle for future community events or gatherings (like Hogmanay parties etc) which is very kind.

At our meeting in the hall held on the 1st November Jonathan Christie gave a talk about the "Cabrach trust" which he manages. It was very interesting and informative to hear the plans for this area (lots of regeneration ideas, like heritage distillery, coffee shop, woodland walks nature trail) and he is very up to date and positive and upbeat about the plans and future for the area and he also told us about the possible funding available, which a lot has already been obtained for this project. Other possible funding for other local communities like ours may also be available, so perhaps Johnathan may be worth contacting or approaching/linking up with to help us find the funds for the new hall or future community projects.

Many thanks to Fiona Hill for suggesting designing and arranging/organizing for the Glass weather vane leaving present for James and Moira Ingleby who after many years have moved out of glass. A photo was uploaded onto the community website of the presentation in November. Local man Darren Farquharson was commissioned to make it, thanks to Darren.

On the 14th November 2pm we held our remembrance Sunday service. The Reverent Mr Caulder kindly gave the service also James and Moira Ingleby attended and kindly presented the reef on behalf and for the glass residents.

On the 27th November we managed to hold a St Andrews ceildh night at the hall, music was kindly provided by Angus Montgomery and the Bromer band. Storm Arwen almost prevented it on the day before but luckily the electric was restored in the afternoon and so it went ahead and it was a great success and the one and only party of the year thanks to everybody who came along and supported it. Also, soon afterwards the corona virus variant Omicron restrictions kicked in, which would have prevented it from happening.

Unfortunately, no carol singing was possible in December 2021 due to the limited gatherings rule.

Well done to all community members who took part in the Christmas 2021 comedy dance act called Mighty Mia a special thanks to Fiona, Lizz and Angus Montgomery who created, filmed, edited and hosted the video clip.

So, all in all it was another relatively quiet year again due to the restrictions. let's hope in 2022/23 things will finally get back to normal as we learn to live with the virus.

This next point is very important and I would like to take this opportunity to remind everybody who lives in the community and uses the hall (be it just simply for voting, using the recycling facilities etc) that we are all volunteers on the committee and we give up our time and resources for free to help run the committee for the community and maintain the hall. So, on this note can I urge all community members to please consider and then hopefully come forward and help run the hall and events for the community. We need new members new ideas all the time to basically help run the committee and the community and it cannot be left, to be run by a few individuals all the time, so please join up and see what you can do for your community even if it is only for one or two tasks a year. You might actually find that you enjoy giving back to the community by helping us.

As mentioned previously James and Moira Ingleby have left the area (June 2021) also Mr and Mrs Blunt from Bare Folds

The hall building warrant has finally been granted after long delays due to people off work, working from home and thus backlogs and delays getting the information/reports/surveys done due to the pandemic. The next step, now possible, will be, to get some builders quotes so we will have a true cost of this undertaking/project to renew the hall if we all agree and so wish to continue, which will all ultimately hinge on whether we can get the complete funding. Rachel Ashley would like some help/volunteers please for this next step. Many thanks Rachel for helping with this.

Alan (Duff) has taken on the job as hall cleaner/organizer after Sonsi Reeve stepped down thank you Alan.

Thanks to Bob and Lorna Yuill for managing the flowers and tubs outside the hall again also a big thank you to Rachel West for still looking after and managing the treasury/finances. Also, many thanks to Sue Brown for taking and managing bookings for the hall.

Many thanks to Rachel Ashly for overseeing the SCIO application also for helping and looking into possible funding streams for the new hall build.

Thanks to Graham Archer for running and keeping the community website going.

Sorry if I've missed anybody out on the 'thank you' list for helping out over the last year.

Well done too Nicola Wordie who represented Scotland for BBC young farmer of the year competition held by country file on BBC 1. Also, to Sarah Wordie her sister for starring on Channel 4s print a cook book completion with Jamie Oliver, she has made it to the second round with her Christmas Lasagna idea best of luck Sarah. Sarah has recently become a fully qualified doctor after many years of studying at Edinburgh University well done Sarah.

Lastly (and sadly) a big thank you to Margo who has run and kept the Glass committee and community going for many years. Margo has given 110% to the community over the years as secretary, effortlessly without tiring without wanting, she has been a true helper and corner stone for this community and we greatly appreciate her time and effort and commitment she has offered to the community over the years. So, on behalf of the committee and community many thanks for all you have done we cannot thank you enough. As from this AGM Margo has decided to step down from this position and therefore, I hope a current community member can step up and forward and take on this important role.

Yours Tom Macpherson, Glass Chairman, February 1st 2022