

LLANDINAM VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

With Accounts for the period 1st November 2015 to 31st October 2016

"the provision and maintenance of a Village Hall for use by the inhabitants of Llandinam without distinction of political, religious or other opinions"

The Annual Report

This report has been prepared in accordance with Charity Commission Guidance and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP)

Registered Charity

Llandinam Village Hall is a Registered Charity, number 524410. Its trustees form a Management Committee responsible for all aspects of the management of the Hall.

Aims

The objective of the Charity is stated in its governing document as: "the provision and maintenance of a Village Hall for use by the inhabitants of Llandinam without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes and other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the objective of improving conditions of life for the inhabitants".

Public Benefit

The Village Hall Management Committee has complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance on Public Benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising its powers and duties.

The Charity fulfils its Public Benefit requirement by maintaining and managing Llandinam Village Hall for use of local people and the public generally; by making and improving plans for improving and developing the Hall so that it may better serve local people and to make full use of the Hall as a Community Asset; and by promoting use of the Hall for local people and others in accordance with its charitable objectives.

Llandinam Community Council is the Custodian Trustee of the Village Hall, as the terms of the Constitution do not allow the trustees to own the property. The Community Council appoints two trustees to sit on the Management Committee but has no other responsibility for the management of the Hall

Llandinam Village Hall is a member of the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO)

Llandinam Village Hall is a Grade 2 Listed Building

OUR PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of the Village Hall is set out in our Constitution: to make the conditions of life better, by education, meetings and social occasions. It is there not only for all inhabitants of the village but also for others who want somewhere to meet. Most of us have friends and relatives in the neighbouring villages and towns. Sometimes we want somewhere to meet where we can share our common interests - everything from Tai Chi to local history, from table tennis to quizzes and from theatre to music.

The Management Committee is appointed annually, by a mixture of direct election at the AGM and appointment by the associated clubs and societies. It is this committee that is responsible for the day to-day running of the Hall repairing the fabric of the building and maintaining the facilities.

The Committee has to comply with various responsibilities and legal requirements such as those relating to health and safety matters. There are also licensing laws, relating to the regulation of public entertainment and the sale of alcohol.

As a landlord, the Committee also has obligation to its tenant, which is exercised on its behalf by Morris, Marshall and Poole, Llanidloes.

Additional requirements arise out of the fact that the Hall is a Grade 2 Listed Building and any repairs and alterations have to take account of the relevant regulations.

OUR FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

The Village Hall provides the facilities for a whole range of activities. It has two meeting rooms, the Girls' Parlour and the Library. The main hall can accommodate concerts, dances and exhibitions. There is also a Snooker Room,

On the ground floor there is a fully-equipped kitchen and a bar, with a wheelchair-accessible toilet complete with alarm. On the first floor there is a single toilet and small kitchen.

There is a wheelchair ramp to the main entrance and a stair lift to give disabled access to the Girls' Parlour. A portable ramp is available to make the stair lift more accessible as there are two stone steps at the entrance

The Committee is actively improving the fabric of the building. Given that the Hall is over 100 years old, it is in remarkably good shape in general. Following on from Stage 1 of the restoration, the roof has been completely re-laid and insulated. Many frost-blown bricks have been replaced, new cast-iron rainwater goods have been installed, the wall round the cellar stairs has been rebuilt, a subsidence problem has been rectified and the disused coal chute has been reinforced and backfilled, thus preventing a potential collapse into the cellar. The porch to the flat entrance has been replaced and the flat has a new bathroom and refurbished windows. It has been redecorated and refurbished throughout and a new tenant moved in on 1st February 2017. The Trustees have successfully applied for grant aid to re-furbish the rest of the windows (traditional leaded lights) and to repair the wooden sub-frames and the work has started. Further building works will involve the re-roofing of the Gents' toilet block, reinforcement of the retaining wall at the rear of the building and considerable re-pointing of brickwork. A full electrical safety inspection took place this year. All

of this work is being managed and sub-contacted and, in some cases, done by the Maintenance sub-committee. The Trustees have a policy of employing local tradesmen where possible, although for specialist work, such as the leaded light windows, they have to look further afield.

We have a sound system and stage lights which, whilst mostly adequate, could usefully be upgraded. There is a hearing loop installed in the main hall the Library and the Girls' Parlour. The portable staging system is regularly used and provides a flexible solution for different needs. A table tennis table is available for Games Nights, together with Indoor Bowls mats and other indoor games equipment. The ancient Bingo machine is occasionally called into service. The Snooker table has been re-covered but, sadly, it is hardly ever used. While it is need of re-decoration, the Snooker Room is one of the most beautiful in the building, retaining almost all of its original furniture and character.

USE OF THE FACILITIES

Most of the use of the Hall comes from groups within the village and many of these groups are represented directly or indirectly on the Management Committee. The users include the Whist Club, Scrabble, Quiz Nights, Games Nights and more; not forgetting meetings of the Royal British Legion, which sadly was closed in Autumn 2016, the Gardening Club and the WI with their regular meetings and occasional suppers for the whole Community.

The representatives of these groups provide valuable insight into the needs of the users of the Hall and have frequently been the instigators of additional facilities and projects. One of these has been Tea at Three, organized by St Llonio's church, providing an afternoon social meeting place once a month. Another group is St Llonio's Company, a junior drama Group, which meets once a week, organised by the church. No less important is the regular Tuesday Lunch Club, organized by Chris and Glen Eatherton.

In addition, the Committee wants to encourage other use. This is partly a question of economics, to ensure the best possible income for the Hall but also because the interests and needs of the inhabitants cannot always be met by organisations based in the village.

EVENTS

In 2016 we hosted another concert as part of the prestigious Gregynog Festival. This is, of course, an acknowledgment of our strong link with the Davies sisters, who were highly influential in developing educational activities at the Hall between the World Wars and who created the festival at their home at Gregynog. Touring Drama productions, supported by the Arts Council of Wales 'Night Out' scheme, have proved very popular and we hope to build on this success to provide an even wider variety of entertainment

NOTICEBOARD AND WEBSITE

It is vital that we communicate what we do to as wide an audience as possible - not only to ensure that everyone who might enjoy the various clubs and societies knows what is going on but also to attract enough support to make them viable.

Of course, the Trustees of the Hall are themselves members of the community and recognise the importance of the many issues that impact on the community as a whole and the importance of sharing information. The large noticeboard at the Hall is managed in partnership with the Community Council so that public information notices can be displayed. With the closure of the Village Shop, fewer people visit the centre of the village. In order to rectify this situation, a new website was set up using a grant from the Big Lottery Fund. This allows most of the community - and those outside it - to have access to information. The new website allows many different people to upload information rather than everything going through a single Webmaster, which results in richer content.

FINANCES

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the rules regulating registered charities, in particular the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). The funds fall below the amount requiring a full audit and are, instead, independently inspected. Diane Jones has done this and has provided an Examiner's Report to the trustees, a copy of which is available on request. This will be published on the village website

Her statement confirms that there are no matters for concern in the way the accounts are kept or the way in which they are reported. The accounts for the period 2015 - 2016 and the balance sheet as at 31 October 2016 are attached to this report.

MANAGEMENT

As part of our responsibilities we have to take into account current requirements regarding health and safety. We know that everyone feels that these regulations can seem a little excessive at times, but it's important to remember that the aim is to keep people safe, particularly in the case of an accident or fire. We continue to review our procedures and trust that they will help all users of the Hall to operate safely and efficiently. To assist in the efficient running of the Hall we have four sub-committees: Maintenance, Website and IT, Bar and Finance and General Purposes. In addition to the day-to-day maintenance of the premises, the Maintenance Committee is responsible for arranging and coordinating the completion of the restoration of the Hall. The Maintenance Schedule ensures that items such as fire alarms, fire extinguishers and the electrical systems are checked on a regular basis, that the Hall complies with relevant legislation and that preventative maintenance is carried out to preserve the fabric of the building. The Bar Committee is responsible for suggesting appropriate prices, though they have to be agreed by the whole committee, making sure that stocks are at an appropriate level and that the bar staff are properly trained. Wynn Gwalchmai has ensured this sometimes vital area of the Hall has gone smoothly for many years. Sadly, he feels that the time has come for him to retire from his bar responsibilities. We shall miss him enormously, but would give him our special thanks for all that he has done.

We are delighted to announce that we have a new Secretary to the Committee, Mrs Vicky Fleming, who also now deals with the bookings diary, administers the booking fees and cleans the building on a regular basis. Contact for her is via a mobile telephone as before. This number is published on the website and in the Listener.

Our grateful and heartfelt thanks go to Iain Parry, our Treasurer, for doing such a thorough job of keeping the books and generating highly useful information that tells us if we are over-spending or under-achieving. He has been a tower of strength and we are sorry that he also feels that the moment has come to hand over the role of Treasurer to someone else. We are, however, delighted that he intends to remain a Trustee, where his knowledge and experience is invaluable. Our new Treasurer, Mr Mike Harris, has been shadowing Iain during this current year to ensure a smooth transition and we welcome him to the role most warmly.

After the imposition of waste collection charges by Powys County Council we had to ask users to remove their own waste. Previously, waste collections were free of charge and we would have had to accommodate charges of several hundred pounds under the new regime. We decided to adopt our new system to avoid having to increase the Hall hire charges. We ask all users of the Hall for their help in minimising waste. Energy prices have remained fairly stable this year although there are now signs that heating oil is becoming more expensive. A revised rent for the flat, based on the refurbishment carried out by our trustees, ably led by Brian Allen, has been agreed in conjunction with Morris Marshall and Poole, who now manage the renting of the flat for us.

Our Village Hall is one of the most used, versatile and beautiful of its kind anywhere. That it keeps going is thanks to the Trustees, who give many hours of time to its affairs, as well as many volunteers. Without them the Hall would not be the vibrant hub of the Community that we all know it to be. It is worthy of note and a matter of some pride that, in 2016, the Hall was used 488 times, an average of some 1.3 times per day!

Chair: Bill Brooks; Deputy Chair: Stuart Marvin (IT); Treasurer: Iain Parry; Secretary: Vicky Fleming; Brian Allen; Gee Castle (British Legion); Chris Eatherton (Gardening Club); Helen Edwards (History Group); Mike Gralton; Wynn Gwalchmai; Susan Jackson (Llandinam WI); Mike Jones (Community Council); Claire Short (TASC); Jon Sloan; Tracy Morgan.

Sub-Committees: Maintenance and Restoration: Brian Allen, Jon Sloan, Chris Eatherton, Mike Gralton. Bar: WynGwalchmai, Chris Eatherton, Iain Parry.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

There is still more work to be done on the fabric of the Hall to ensure that the building remains structurally sound and as energy-efficient as possible, but we are making good progress. Storage remains an issue and will become more so with further acquisitions. We hope to construct a shed outside, to hold the stage units, so that more use can be made of the storeroom. It may also prove possible to bring the cellar into use for storage of non-perishable items.

We should not forget the Hall's own history and the history of Llandinam which is bound up with it. It gives a sense of continuity and identity that will surely be needed in the future. Our Trustees grow older of course, but this year we have welcomed a new Trustee who, single-handedly, has reduced the average age of the current Trustees significantly. It can happen and we hope that other younger members, with new ideas will feel able to follow in Tracy's and now Vicky's footsteps. We would like to encourage people to help in the Hall in whatever capacity and with whatever skills and time they have: running the bar for example. The Hall can count on a bright future but we always need more people to step into the breach.

We have a splendid Village Hall and a vibrant community life that goes on within it. That we are as successful as we are is due to the effort that has been put in over the generations. We need to continue that effort into the future and we are very pleased that new and additional hands are making this happen. Why not come and join us?