

LLANDINAM VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

With Accounts for the period 1st November 2014 to 31st October 2015

"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. It's trustees for 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 (a) meetings, lectures and classes and (b) 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 fulfills its public eye benefit requirement by maintains and managing Llandinam Village Hall for use by local people and the public generally; by making and implementing 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 by 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 Organizations (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. We are not an island and most of us have friends and relatives in the neighbouring village 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.

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 obligations to its tenants.

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 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 stairlift to give disabled access to the Girls' Parlour. A removable ramp is available to make the stairlift 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. We are presently applying for grant aid to re-furbish the rest of the windows (traditional leaded lights) and to repair the wooden sub-frames. Further building works will involve the re-roofing of the Gents' toilet block, reinforcement of the retaining wall at the rear of the building, a lot of re-pointing of brickwork and replacement of the porch to the flat entrance. A full electrical safety inspection is due this year and there is further decorating work to be done. All of this work is being managed and sub-contracted by the Maintenance sub-committee. The trustees have a policy of employing local tradesmen where possible, although for specialist work, such as the leaded windows, they have to look further afield.

We have a sound system and stage lighting, 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 in 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. Could this room be put to some other use? This is

the sort of challenge facing the Trustees when balancing present-day needs with the obligations to safeguard the heritage.

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 British Legion, the Gardening Club and the WI wither 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, once again organized 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 organizations based in the village.

EVENTS

In 2015 we hosted two concerts as part of the prestigious Gregynog Festival and we shall do so again in 2016. This is, of course, a welcome re-connection with the Davies sisters, with their local connections, 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's 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 know 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 recognize 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. Many people live in the outlying areas of Llandinam Parish. In order to rectify this situation, a new website was set up using a grant from the Big Lottery Fund. This allows more 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. This is done for us by Diane Jones who 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 2014 - 2015 and the balance sheet as at 31 October 2015 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, Bar, Events Co-ordination and Finance and General Purposes. In addition to the day-to-day maintenance of the premises, The Maintenance Committee is responsible for arranging and co-ordinating 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, for making sure that stocks are at an appropriate level and that the bar staff are properly trained. Wynn Gwalchmai continues to make sure that this area of the hall goes smoothly, as he has done for many years, and he deserves special thanks for his efforts.

Special thanks are due to Chris Eatherton and his wife, Glen, who have dealt with the bookings diary and administered the booking fees for the past 7 years. They have carried out this important task in addition to all the other work they do for the Hall. Due to family circumstances they have had to withdraw from these functions. There is a new system in place whereby certain of the Trustees take it in turn, in two-month blocks, to handle the diary and the bookings. Contact is now via a mobile telephone, which can be reset to transfer calls to the duty diary holder. This number is published on the website and in the Listener.

We also need to record our thanks 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. It's another task and perhaps another one where we only notice if it goes wrong.

Our Secretary, Jenny Milborrow, carries out the Minutes of our meetings and many other necessary if unglamorous tasks. She has been a model of efficiency and helpfulness since she took on the task. Sadly, she has announced that she will be stepping down from this position at the 2016 AGM - she will certainly be missed.

Behind the scenes Jane Brooker continues to keep the Hall in a clean and useable condition. The size and age of the building can make it seem an uphill task at times but she seems undaunted.

After the sudden 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 minimizing waste. At least, energy prices have remained fairly stable - heating oil, particularly, has been much cheaper of late. The rent for the flat is increased in line with inflation, under the Rental Agreement.

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.

Vision for the Future

There is still a lot of work to be done on the fabric of the Hall, to ensure that the building remains structurally sound and as energy-efficient as possible. Storage is always 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 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. Of course, even Trustees grow older. Without giving away any personal information, it can be said that only one of the current Trustees is

less than 60 years of age. We urgently need much younger members, with younger ideas. We need to encourage people to help in the Hall, in whatever capacity and with whatever skills and time they have, whether it's clearing up after events or becoming a Trustee. The Hall will only have a future if new people step into the breach left by others who have served their time.

We have a splendid Village hall and a vibrant community life that goes on within it. We are successful, but only because of the effort that has been put in over many generations. We need to continue that into the future and we need new and additional hands to make this happen. If we can do that, the Hall will have a very bright future.

(Trustees and committees list to follow.)

(Logos etc. to follow)