

Tynninghame Village Hall
Trustees annual report
1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020

Contact

Tynninghame Village Hall

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Charity Trustees

David Clark (Chair, left April 2021))

Tim Harper (Treasurer, joined April 2018)

Barbara Schofield (Secretary. Left committee in May 2020)

Jessica Chatters (left December 2020)

Margaret Evans (left January 2021)

Erica Wimbush (Joined June 2017)

Chris Gunstone (Joined June 2020)

Carol Crowther (Joined June 2020)

Alison McGregor (Joined June 2020)

Shireen Green (Joined August 2020)

Danny Wight (Joined October 2020)

Objectives and Activities

The Charity was set up in 2017 and its aims are -

1.1 The advancement of citizenship or community development through the provision of a venue for the local community and others to come together and participate in various activities and events.

1.2 The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science by offering a space for local groups to exhibit their crafts.

1.3 The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended by providing a range of classes and groups.

A lot of the focus of the charity is running the Village Hall and in a normal year we would be having concerts, pub nights, singing, Burns Night, Christmas events as well as the regular yoga and dog training classes. The onset of Covid-19 obviously changed this and members of the committee were active in supporting the local community.

The charity is primarily for those in the local community, which is primarily Tynninghame Village and Tynninghame House, Lawhead and Tynfield, However people from outwith this local area come to events from Dunbar, East Linton and Whitekirk.

Structure, governance and management

Our governing document is a constitution set up in 2017. We rely on members of the community putting themselves forward to become trustees, and regularly ask for new members at the AGM. Fortunately we have plenty of people willing to be trustees at present.

Achievements and Performance

After a normal start to the year, the committee had to learn to function through the Covid pandemic. This meant having meetings and AGM (attended by 26 people) via Zoom, and working to comply with the changing regulations concerning Covid with the primary aim of keeping people safe. Classes and activities were suspended during lockdown but reinstated with appropriate measures as soon as we were able. During lockdown Trustees were involved in setting up a community WhatsApp group and trying to ensure that the more vulnerable members of the community had support.

Despite Covid, work on refurbishment of the hall progressed. Secondary glazing was put in and we have replacing the antiquated lights. This was supported by grants from Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership and ELC Community Intervention Fund (for secondary glazing) and BeGreen for lighting.

A questionnaire was distributed to try to ascertain local residents views on community engagement. 126 leaflets were distributed and 39 replies were received. Generally there was support for more community activities (with a focus on history and nature) and concern about speeding, parking and pedestrian safety.

The trustees have continued to develop and update the website to include such things as local walking routes, and up to date information about hall availability during Covid.

Trustees worked with Dunpender Community Council on road safety in the village, and with local residents about the cricket pitch area, which the Estate were wanting the village to take responsibility for.

Events

New Years 'Day Walk Wednesday 1st January

A small group of Villagers joined together in a walk along the river to East Linton including Preston Mill, followed by a Pub Lunch.

Tea Concert Series, Sunday 5th January, 2nd February and 8th March

This was the first of tea concerts series designed to showcase Young musicians, former and current post-graduate students at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, as they embark on their careers. It was a chance to enjoy a 45-minute concert in the intimate setting of the hall followed by the chance to chat informally with the musicians whilst enjoying a Sunday afternoon tea. These events become extremely popular and booked up quickly. The first concert was preceded by a come and try the harp. This allowed people to try individual harps in an hour tuition session. This event was fully booked.

Burns Supper, Saturday 25th January

51 people attended this 'Donations Event'. Just less than half of those who attended participated in some way in the running of the event by organising, cooking and providing entertainment. The entertainments included recitals from young local musicians and families, the Selkirk grace, address to the Haggis, a very animated rendition of the Tam O'Shanter, two Burns songs and Auld Lang Syne.

Christmas Concert

Before Christmas we were able to have a socially distanced harp concert in the open air by the cafe which was well attended.

Regular Classes

The popular Wednesday Yoga classes run by Jan Cameron continues attracting 50-60 people each week. These were suspended during lockdown, but A Dog Training session is now occurring on a Monday evening.

A Craft and Connect class was setup last year allowing people to meet fortnightly on a Tuesday evening as a place of creativity and exchange of ideas. During lock down the group no longer met but communicated and shared ideas via WhatsApp.

With a professional tutor, the Singing for All class continued on Sunday evenings with a good base of 12 singers. This continued on-line during the corona virus outbreak.

Art events.

On every last Sunday of the month there is a Wee Fayre held in the Hall where local artists and makers sell their art and craft work. The were halted during lockdown. In association with East Linton Annual Art Exhibition three Art classes were held.

Financial Review

Currently the funds are very healthy due to income from grant applications for refurbishment. The accounts have been audited, and we expect that in the coming year we will spend most of the accumulated funds, although we would not go into deficit.

Future Plans

We are hoping to continue with refurbishment - especially roof insulation, and toilet upgrades. We would like to improve the kitchen and redecorate when funds allow.

We are eager to restart activities in the Hall when we can!