

Argles Memorial Hall, Crosthwaite

Minutes from Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 27th May 2025 7.00pm

- Present:** Helen Todd (Chair), Charlotte Webb (Treasurer), Jenny Waldron (Committee member and H&S), Katie Smith (Committee member and playgroup rep), Janette Younger (Secretary), Tom Smith (Vice Chair), Caroline Holmes (Exchange), Geraldine Wilson (Exchange), Angela Dobson (Bookings and Parish Council), Claire Hensman (Landowners of Crosthwaite & Lyth), Pat Howarth (Art Club, CLEAN and Crosthwaite Show), John Holmes (First Responders), Jim Bownass, Jean Sherratt (WI).
- Apologies:** Janet Richardson (Bowling Club) and John Sceal (Landowners of Crosthwaite & Lyth).
- Welcome:** Helen Todd opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to everyone in attendance.

Minutes of previous AGM meeting 14th May 2024: All present agreed as true record and signed by Helen Todd.

Chairperson's Report (HT)

Although it may have seemed a relatively quiet year from the outside, the hall has once again been well used by both the local and wider community. We organised two fundraising events the first being a quiz night which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to low ticket sales. The second event was the Christmas Fair held on 30th November 2024 in conjunction with the Primary School. There were new stallholders alongside our popular regulars. This was well attended. The annual pantomime took place in January with all profits being donated to the hall (approximately £1400).

The hall continues to be a busy hub with evenings booked up for indoor bowling, yoga and Women's Institute. Playgroup continues on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and the Exchange meets regularly offering lunches and afternoon teas. Additionally we host the Post Office every Monday morning, monthly meetings of the Viking re-enactment group, the annual Crosthwaite Show and various private events, including parties and feed stations for walking and running events.

A special thanks goes to CW for her work in the installation of the projector and screen which will allow us to host community film nights and offer audio-visual facilities for those hiring the hall and also for obtaining a grant from the Landowners to help offset the cost.

Thanks were extended to members of the committee for their parts in the smooth running of the hall this year. HT announced she is retiring from position as Chair as is JW from her position as community member. A warm support of appreciation was extended for their seven years of service on the committee. HT hopes to continue to represent the panto on

the committee. She thanked everyone for their support. Jim Bownass also thanked Helen and Jenny for looking after the hall over the last seven years.

Treasurer's Report (Year ending 12th April 2025) presented by Charlotte Webb

- Income from lettings totalled £5267.50 - down slightly from last year
- The Christmas Fair totalled £769 also slightly down on previous year
- The 100 club now has 45 members which is disappointing
- Pantomime donation of £1400 – up from last year
- Mike Berners-Lee talk in hall on 28/5/25 already raised £800
- Grant of £7500 received from Landowners towards projector/screen costs which is very much appreciated.
- Although overall profit of £6040 there is still income from hall lettings and panto to come in. This final figure also contains Landowners grant of £7500 which would result in slight loss of around £95.

Future fundraising and expenditure

- The recently installed projector and screen once complete will be used for film nights, talks etc which should be a source of raising funds.
- Expenses such as oil and electricity have increased. A discussion took place around different providers/standing charges etc which will be looked at.
- Money will need to be spent on decorating the hall before baffles are installed.
- Treasurer to look into possible grants from the Council / Freda Scott Trust.

The Treasurer's report was adopted - proposed by TS/seconded by AD and signed by HT.

Health and Safety report presented by Jenny Waldron

As an interim arrangement to assist new committee I took over the regular H&S checks for the village hall from Kath Edwards at this time last year.

The fire alarms, emergency lights and cylinders are checked every two weeks and testing of all four call break points. There have been a couple of replacements and repairs to fire equipment. The strip light in the kitchen which is an emergency safety light is still waiting for a new tube to be fitted. Our electrician is aware of this and I would recommend changing all old light fittings in kitchen to more energy efficient ones due to their age and potential ongoing problems.

Dalby fire are now coming out twice a year to check and service our fire equipment. This extra visit is to comply with a change to public building regulations.

Glenn Sutcliffe has agreed to take on these regular checks. He already has paperwork for the H&S policies and procedures, as well as the practical experience and knowledge to continue after my resignation from the committee.

Finally please could we remind all hall users to enter any accident in the accident book stored in cupboard with First Aid box, however minor and insignificant this may be.

Maintenance/Bookings report presented by Angela Dobson

- Mike Elliot has been approached to do the plastering of the wall next to the cupboard – **AD to remind him.**
- There had been a couple of slipped slates which have now been put back in place.
- There had been a problem with the boiler after a recent cold patch where it had gone into sleep mode. The problem was solved after a re-set.
- PAT testing due in August is to be arranged – **AD.**

Regular bookings continue with enquiries and possible interest from a Pickle Ball group for Thursday/Friday evenings and PE club for school children after school. A concern was raised about the use of balls and the protection of the recently installed projector. It was decided a cage could be fitted around the projector and this will be looked into - **CW**

After a recent incident of an overflowing green bin an email is now sent to all hall users to ask them to take recycling away.

Resignations and appointments with election of new officers

- Resignations accepted from HT (Chair) and JW (Committee member).
- John Sceal to no longer represent the Landowners – new rep. to be decided
- TS to continue as Vice-Chair – proposed AD/seconded CW
- JY to continue as secretary – proposed AD/seconded TS
- CW elected as treasurer – proposed AD/seconded GW
- AD elected as Chair and will no longer represent the Parish Council – proposed KS/seconded JB (a new PC rep. to be confirmed).
- KS to remain on committee
- GS to become a committee member – proposed JW/seconded TS
- HT to be a committee member as the Panto representative.

User groups' reports

Playgroup

- KS reports that playgroup is doing well but had a dry spot when the two bridges closed and also a natural loss of children in September which impacted numbers. Numbers are back up and Tuesday and Thursday sessions are full.
- Playgroup has bought a bouncy castle which is fully insured. It is already paying its way in that every time it goes out for hire it pays for playgroup for an extra week.

Exchange

- GW reports meetings take place on 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month and Tea for Two averaging 15-18.
- A recent spring -time event hosted 50 guests and helpers.
- Window boxes have been planted out and the automatic watering system has been set up again for which AD was thanked.

- GW commented on the weeds at the front of the hall not being cleared away – **the committee will look into this**
- The cleanliness of ovens was mentioned and it was agreed that this year the Exchange would pay for cleaning with the Hall paying the following year.
- It seems that tea towels are being left wet and unwashed. Users/groups need reminder to wash and return clean and dry.

Women's Institute

- There are 26 members who mostly attend.
- There are several open meetings (next one 3rd Wednesday in July) with Louise Latham and violin entitled Life in Music.
- The WI continues to support the hall eg Christmas Fair and would be willing to offer more support if needed.

Crosthwaite Show

- PH reports that the hall is used for registration and the show on the day with the WI providing teas.
- It has diversified over the years with the school being involved which will strengthen the future of the show.

Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth

- Claire Hensman reports that the Landowners had donated £7500 to the Hall for the projector and screen with help towards the defibrillator (outside the hall). A donation of £5000 also given to support school funds.
- The land next to the recreation field has been purchased at a cost of £54,000 primarily to benefit the community but also to future-proof development creep as the adjoining field on roadside has permission for two building plots. The field at present is being used as grazing but its future use will be discussed via consultation.
- The Landowners status has changed and it is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). CH stated the importance of recruiting young people to come on board to continue its work for the future.

First Responders

- John Holmes reported that the hall is used once a year for its annual assessments.
- Numbers of first responders are down from twenty three to four due in part to obligations being more onerous and possibly the good health of those in the area.

Pantomime

- HT reported that the panto goes from strength to strength and the current one is being written.
- The group advertised for help with scenery, making costumes and generally taking part with a good response.

- The lady who provides costumes is giving up but they have been able to acquire some of their most used costumes from her – even so more hats are always welcome!

CLEAN (Crosthwaite & Lyth Eco Action Network)

- PH reports that the group is working on activities around more energy efficient and energy conscious ideas.
- They are working with Cold to Cosy Homes and several people have already benefited.
- 30 new trees have been planted around the church which is also used as a recycling centre eg blister packs and swift boxes have been installed in the church tower.
- There is a WhatsApp Gardening Group with bulk buying of compost available.
- Topics such as light pollution, septic tanks have been discussed and were well attended.
- Last year a nearly new sale in the hall raised £250 support for the playgroup and school.
- Congratulations were given to CLEAN on their invite from the Bishop of Carlisle Cathedral to receive a national award ie Eco Church Silver award for the group's work.
- There has been river quality testing and there continues to be a rolling programme to encourage biodiversity, energy efficiency and wildlife and community awareness.

Any other business

- CW will send out an email to invite user groups to a 'demo' of the projector and screen as soon as the extra wiring has been completed - **CW**
- JB commented on how easy it was to use the projector and screen.
- Query raised about blackout blinds but reassured that the projector is so good that blinds are not necessary.
- JS mentioned that the WI would really appreciate baffles being installed in hall to help with the echo. This is currently being discussed by the committee.
- The topic of outdoor plant centre was discussed again by KS. She cited the one at Levens which makes £2500 per annum and wonders if we could consider something similar outside the hall. Concerns re maintenance and security were raised – **for further discussion**

Date of next AGM meeting: Tuesday 26th May 2026

A presentation of flowers and wine was kindly given by Tom (Vice chair) to Helen (outgoing chair) and Jenny (outgoing committee member). Helen will continue on the committee as the panto rep. and Jenny has kindly said she will be available for support if needed. Thank you.

HT thanked everyone for attending and lending their support to the village hall.

Meeting finished at 8.20pm.