

Argles Memorial Hall

Minutes from half-yearly meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023

Present: Helen Todd (Chair), Jenny Waldron (Treasurer), Katie Smith (Committee member and playgroup rep), Janette Younger (Acting secretary)

Geraldine Wilson (Exchange), Caroline Holmes (Exchange), Marilyn Shuttleworth (WI/Panto)

Apologies: Kath Edwards, Pat Howarth, Tom Smith, John Sceal and Janet Richardson.

Minutes of previous meeting (14/11/2022)

Read out and signed by Helen Todd as a true record.

Chairperson's Report (HT)

- The July Open Morning attracted useful contacts with possible new members to come.
- The Classical Concert profits were divided between 3 charities (Mary Harkness) with the bar from the Houghton Weavers raising £354.39.
- The Christmas Fair to be held on 2nd December 2023.
- The annual Crosthwaite Panto to be held end of January 2024 – biggest fundraiser.
- We will continue to pursue a Youth Club for children in village.

Treasurer's Report (half year up to 15th November 2023) – see attached

- Statement of Financial Activity for 2023/24 signed and dated by Helen Todd (Chair) and Jenny Waldron (Treasurer).
- Increase of hall fees from January 2023 and hall events have all boosted income together with a donation of £1000 from the Exchange.
- As per last year oil and electricity costs remain high.
- Improvements in replacing the electrical consumer unit and chimney repairs have been completed.
- Account balance remains stable and it would be ideal to break even.
- Upcoming fundraising events and regular lettings will help support funds over next few months.
- Electricity contract still not fully in place but JW confident the direct debit will be set up when instructed by the provider.

Health and Safety/Hall lettings Report (submitted by Kath Edwards) – see attached

- Report read out by HT in Kath Edwards's absence.
- 5 yearly report for hall's electrical work completed August 2022 – to be reviewed in August 2027 (noted by secretary JY).
- All electrical work re insurance requirements completed this year 2023.

- Cost of providing heating for the hall has been of concern when users leave early due to low numbers or cancel at short notice – **KE** suggests texting Bookings in advance if possible or turning the thermostat down to 7 degrees if leaving early and then to text Bookings.
- To overcome overlap of WI and Yoga on 3rd Wednesday evening in month a trial of 5.00-6.30pm start for yoga has taken place which seems at present to be satisfactory.
- Non-regular bookings have increased over 2023.
- Discussion re licences for events such as recently successful Houghton Weavers. It was thought we had music but not alcohol licence.
Action JY – to confirm with **KE** that we do have alcohol and music licences for hall (as per report)
- Health and Safety – the new Westmorland Furness Council now require an annual form to be completed to record fridge/freezer temperatures together with guidance for staff working in the Exchange. **GW** has received an official record book to complete to produce in the event of unannounced food and hygiene visit from the council. A certificate has been issued for 2023.

User groups

Exchange (Reported by **GW/CH**)

- Continues to hold 2 meetings per month – 1st Wednesday, Country Market and lunch 3rd Wednesday, Country Market, bookstall and tea.
- Xmas lunch to be held on 6th December 2023 with 52 tickets sold.
- Concern re dwindling numbers reasons being people sadly passing away and new people not interested/ work commitments.
- **HT** asked if people know about the exchange – **GW** said when exchange first started lots of younger people attended but in spite of advertising numbers have dropped
- **KS** mentioned walkers arriving at hall at lunchtime whilst playgroup on could be possible users of the Exchange for lunch as well as the Warm Safe Place over Winter Scheme (Local Council) – **Action KS** – to look into walking group Kendal?
- The Exchange is open to ideas and would like to do more big dinners but would need to know in advance to cater for numbers.

Womens' Institute (Reported by **MS**)

- One or two new members now attending
- The new arrangement with the yoga group is working well at present.

Any other business

- Panto on 26th/27th January 2024.
- **MS** reports (pp Tom Smith) tickets available price £10 per adult, £5 children (includes ice-cream). A raffle will be held with half going to school, half to Cancer Care and ticket monies to Village Hall. The script has been written by HT in the theme of Nursery Rhyme adventures

- **JW** reports the Art Group is doing fine. Although no new members the existing ones attend regularly.
- **MS** – all groups are looking for new members and that new people in village not necessarily interested.
- There was a general discussion re new families in area and whether they would like to be involved in the village. It was noted that quite a few are younger people working from home who might like to use The Meeting Room to work from.
Action KS - to contact known family to discuss above idea.
- Query about jumble sale and table top were discussed but decided not viable.

Date of next meeting:

To be confirmed