

24th June 2013 CHAIRMANS REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Firstly may I welcome you to the first A.G.M. in our new hall. What a lot has happened since I reported last year that we had been awarded the grant of £277.180 to build the hall. For the Community of Knucklas and District.

We handed over the old building to the contractors on the 1st of July 2012 and, on the 1st February 2013 we were handed back into our care this wonderful building. It was build by local contractors with labour and materials sourced where possible locally. I think that it is appropriate to thank on behalf of the committee and the local community all involved in its construction.

Once completed two local ladies of the community and the Chairman made the curtains and we would like to thank them for all their hard work and to say how pleased we are with them.

Our thanks also go to Mr. Barrie Nickolls who gave his time and expertise over the past years to design and be our Project Manager saving us vast sums of money. Thanks also go to Cllr John Brunt who has guided us in many ways and helped us in securing a grant from Powys CC through Mrs. Jenni Thomas. Mrs. Thomas is on hand at all times to help and guide us.

This hall is a fitting tribute to Dr. Keith Ackermann who led this Committee for many years through seemingly insurmountable difficulties to bring about this new hall. It was his vision, determination and refusal to give up which made all this possible for the benefit of the local community. We owe him a great debt of gratitude - sadly he is not now here to see the fruits of his labour.

We must repay him by making this a vibrant and well-used hall and centre for the benefit of the whole community.

How do we achieve this?

It is up to the community to use and organise groups, societies and clubs to use the facilities for their activities. It is not now for the Management Committee to provide activities. The Committee may well be able to help in signposting groups to possible funding, or help to organise events and projects. For example, if a group wanted IT training on to how to get the best out of the internet. The committee could invite Coleg Powys to run a course but it is not the committee's remit to put on a course just in case people would attend.

It is the management's role to manage the running of the hall and centre for the benefit of user groups and individuals alike, to keep it fit for purpose and to ensure its financial sustainability. The management committee is not them, its you! To be effective it needs you to come forward and be part of managing the centre to ensure all users get the best out of the facility. If you are a user I hope you will consider helping to manage the hall and centre. I hope you will encourage everyone to come along and be involved bringing new ideas and suggestions to make this a successful, vibrant and well used hall and centre.

The new hall was officially opened on the 13h April 2013 by Kirsty Williams AM in the presence of members of Powys CC. Initial feedback from users is very positive. The centre is here, opened for business and it is now down to you, the community, to use and enjoy it.

And lastly I have to report that bookings are coming in, and the feedback is excellent. We have held a Bingo night which was very successful (we have been asked to do another one soon) a Football Tournament (Knucklas winning the Cup back) and we have a social night booked for September.

Outside bookings have been a WI Conference, Christening Party, Church activities and a 50th Birthday Party.

I understand that this is already more than in the previous 2/3 years, so all the signs are there.

On a regular basis we have Yoga, Ti Chi, Craft Class, Flower arranging, Youth Club, Ladies Guild and Gardening Club.

Lastly I would like to thank the Committee for their hard work during the last year and hope that new people will come forward to help.