

## HOWGATE VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION

### CHAIRPERSONS REPORT 2018/19

HVHA has enjoyed another eventful year and I am most grateful to all Management Committee members for their hard work, support and enthusiasm. All of them volunteer their time freely on behalf of our community.

#### Hall Developments

Thankfully no further major structural repairs were needed since the AGM in October last year and the boiler behaved itself following a thorough service in January!

The electric water heating urn broke down in February and has been replaced. A decision on the Hall future has still not been forthcoming from Church of Scotland's legal department so we have continued to run events and regular groups as before.

Susan Gracie continues to provide weekly cleaning services and Karen Bennett carries out monthly checks on the defibrillator.

#### Hall Usage

We are grateful to our regular user groups for their custom and support, helping HVHA to be financially self-sustaining;

Bridge Club

Pilates

Art Class

Rural

HCC

Thank you for continuing to contribute to our community and for your patience and understanding over the uncertainties around our future.

In addition there have been individual lettings for parties, training events and other workshops.

We offered space for a mother and baby group to meet but this has not developed into a regular slot due to lack of support. Thanks to Karen Bennett for attempting to facilitate this.

#### Social and Fundraising Events

The past year saw a number of successful events take place helping to generate valuable income for HVHA in addition to bringing our community together socially.

Gin Tasting Evening

Curry and Quiz Night

Art Exhibition

Family Gala Day

Italian evening

Halloween BBQ and Fancy Dress party

Lace making workshop

Massive thanks go to all committee members and other volunteers for their efforts in staging these events.

During the year Nathan Ferguson, Paul Dunn and Shirley Chapman have stood down from the HVHA management committee and Karen Bennett has handed over the newsletter duties after many years – our thanks go to them for their valuable contributions. New volunteers are always welcome as are ideas! Thanks also go to those in the local community who have attended and supported our events.

Individual thanks go to Andy McConnell for taking over production of the monthly newsletter from Karen Bennett, Irene McConnell who oversees Hall Bookings, Donald Cameron who administers the Village website, Rosemary Marwick for Town Crier liaison and to the volunteers who deliver these to the wider community

HVHA meetings occur monthly on the second or third Monday of the month at 7pm in the smaller back room of the Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend or feed in comments/ideas via email or personal contact with Committee members. Also remember we have a Howgate Village Facebook page!

#### Challenges for the coming year

1. The forthcoming closure of Howgate Church and subsequent uncertainty over the future of the Hall.
2. Attracting new committee members to volunteer their time and energies in support of HVHA
3. Addressing the dwindling support and enthusiasm from the local community for our events and meetings.
4. How to raise more funds to enable HVHA to continue in the context of declining revenues and increasing outlays.

HVHA looks forward to hearing the views of the community on these and any other issues of relevance.

Tom Schofield  
30/10/2019