



GATESIDE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY: SC038682

Chairman's Report 2013

The main responsibilities of the Community Association are to promote the well being of the people of Gateside and surrounding district and to foster a community spirit amongst our residents and also to maintain the Gateside War Memorial Hall. I think that we have had a successful year in both respects and, whilst there is always more to do, we can be pleased with the progress we have made.

The main sources of income for the maintenance of the village hall are booking fees, fundraising activities and grants:-

Bookings

The hall continues to be used by a variety of groups including the School, WRI and fitness groups. Unfortunately, Pilates classes have stopped, but a new Karate class has started and I hope that this will be well supported. The Hall is also used regularly by a local band and the metal detectorists were back for a successful day searching for hidden treasure in the field. The Hall was also used by a group conducting dog trials. We have had a few private party bookings, but we really need to promote the Hall more to increase the number of such bookings.

Fundraising

Our fundraising events this year have included the spring coffee morning and the Christmas Fair. Both were successful events though attendance has been down a bit. Buttons and Bows were back again for another very successful Stovie Dance in May with the Button and Bows Ceilidh Band – they got everyone up and dancing. The hill race was held for the third year and we are very grateful to the landowners for allowing the race to take place on their land and to Sue for organising the evening. We had more entrants than previous years – including a large contingent from Gateside which was great to see. This year saw the addition of a new event to our annual programme – a Murder Mystery evening. Many thanks to Hannah and Kat for organising a brilliant event. There is obviously some hidden talent in the village and there were great performances from the stall-holders. Rumour has it that they are thinking of a theatrical production at some point! And well done to Sarani Fernando for guessing who did it.

Hall Improvements

The main outstanding project is the hall render. The application is with SITA and a decision will be made before Christmas. The grant application also included costings for the floor to be re-sanded and for new signs for the car park and an external notice board.

A rather unanticipated event was the loss of our shed! That was comprehensively wrecked in the recent high winds and many thanks to everyone who was involved in the clean up operation.

We have asked Eddie to buy some disco lights for us and also a projector and screen so that we can increase our range of events in the New Year.

SECRETARY: SUSAN JACK
WESTER UPPER URQUHART, GATESIDE
FIFE, KY14 7RW



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More flower tubs have been added to the village this year and we have applied for funding to add more in the coming year. And particular thanks to Laura for planting and maintaining the wildflower corner at the back of the Hall. It looked lovely this year.

Our achievements this year, would not have been possible without the help and support of a small but committed group of people, so may I just finish by expressing my own personal thanks to some more of you:-

Donald Lothian and Andy Heer – for turning up on Thursday evenings in rain, sun and snow and for dealing with all our requests with good humour and getting results

Bobbi Thomson – for keeping us up to date with Community Council business.

The Events Committee – Teri and Hannah and all the others who have helped out at coffee mornings and other events

The Hall Refurbishment Committee – Susan, Sue and Alan

All the Committee Members for attending our meetings and helping out in numerous ways

Annette Petrie for keeping the Hall so clean and tidy

Our Hall Convenor, Alan – who has a rather minute budget to spend on maintaining a rather large hall

Our Treasurer – Emma, for making sure we don't go bust!

Our Secretary, Susan for taking the minutes for us and dealing with correspondence on behalf of the Association

My thanks to you all.

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