

*Waterford Recreation Committee
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 8th October 2020*

1. Welcome

Barbara Perry welcomed those who attended our first online AGM, Attendance was via Zoom

Attending: Barbara Perry, Acting Chair, Jo Willis, Treasurer, Shirley Howells Acting Secretary, June Hounslow, Peter Crossley, Rod Willis, John Oakins, Wendy Oakins, Joan Cheeseman, Ray Cole, Lacey Owen, Tess Gatens, Greta Saunders, Jean Wildi, Dawn Crowdy, Laura Calaz, Mark Wadsworth (rep Bridge Club), Ken Croft (Herts County Councillor)

Apologies: from Amanda Barnes, Ken Alford, Jenny Alford, Sarah Baldwin, Steve Baldwin

2. Minutes of AGM 2019

Proposed by Jo Willis

Seconded by June Hounslow

3. WRC 2019/2020 Review given by Barbara Perry

Events:

Easter Bazaar April 2019

As always, the Bazaar had a lovely feel about it but this year seemed busier, buzzier and better than ever with the village community spirit coming out in force as per usual:

Our profit of £384 towards the upkeep and maintenance of the hall was slightly down on previous years but it is always secondary to the joy of spending time catching up with old friends and making new ones: it's what makes living in Waterford so special!

The WRC craft stall, with items made by the loosely named crafting/social circle, did a roaring trade. This group is made up of one part talent: two parts enthusiasm and is a most informal gathering to which all are welcome; once we're allowed to convene again!.

Car Clue-Quest Hunt May 2019

A new event which involved driving round the locale, following instructions to solve the puzzles and make it back to the hall in time to eat BBQ and claim the magnum of Champagne! It was quite a spectacle to see all the cars, lined up with engines revving ready for the off! Although there were reports of a few squabbles along the way, everyone seemed to have a good time! Not a big fundraiser, but a great big Fun raiser (groan) and one we hope to repeat.

Summer Fete, September 2019

Our aim this year was to emphasise the benefits of living in our community. It was our most ambitious undertaking to date, requiring a phenomenal amount of planning goodwill and hard work.

We introduced a Horticultural, Art and Baking Competition which showcased the best jams, cakes, produce and artistic talents of our residents. It created the right amount of friendly competition and no-one offered the judges a bribe! Thank you to resident Jane Guinn and Victoria, from 'Mudlarks' for their judging expertise.

We also were lucky enough to welcome Yellie from 'Love Flowers', who demonstrated with professional ease, how to hand tie a bouquet of flowers and generously donated them for one lucky winner! It was breathtaking to watch her.

Perhaps the most significant addition to the whole day was having the pleasure of being entertained by JunkYard Dawg. For those few who don't know, Waterford's own, Peter Crossley and Steve Baldwin are 2 of the 5 very talented musicians who make up this Country Jug Band, and they made our fete into a festival. Thank You guys, you were amazing! The huge marquee was loaned by Mudlarks, and it provided the right backdrop for an afternoon of fine music. It was a joy to see how many families sat around on the bales of straw, obviously enjoying the festival feel.

The final newbie, was a craft stall dedicated to our craft groups efforts: It was groaning under the weight of their productivity and did a roaring trade! Thank you, June and Tess, for being the driving forces, and the main contributors, along with the multi-talented Jean!

We couldn't have a fete, though, without the children's games, and the ever-popular Dog Show. Dawn works tirelessly every year to provide the best dog show ever. Many have tried to copy its formula but ours remains the best and draws from far and wide.

The Tea Room team stepped it up a notch this year, looking quite the professionals in "branded" t-shirts. Thank You to Julia and her "girls" for feeding and watering all comers throughout the day, and always with a smile.

The whole committee extends our heartfelt thanks to all who helped on the day, your involvement is what makes the day so memorable.

Special thanks must be made to

- the Bric-a Brac Team for another year of dealing with the throng: thankyou Trevor et al. I believe you must be one of the longest serving teams of volunteers and deserve a Long Service Medal! but must settle for our thanks and gratitude instead
- Ray and Joan must come in a very close 2nd for contenders of the longest running stall holder: their paper stall with all its glorious wrapping paper, generously donated by Simon Timms is always a firm favourite
- the Grand Prize Draw and Raffles Ladies: such a flurry of folding has to happen in a very short space of time, and it always happens without a hitch. thankyou Sarah and Sue for your Prize gathering efforts. They were super, as ever.
- The Pimms and Beer Tent Team: Another busy stall requiring a lot of planning and delivery: thanks Sue
- Matt & Ben who travelled ridiculous distances to do the job no-one wants (car park attendants!)
- Shirley for recruiting much needed volunteers to man the stalls. I'm not sure how much coercion was involved but am eternally grateful, regardless how they were induced.
- Lacey and Romilly for hours and hours of sorting out the labour of love that is Adopt a Teddy and for just always being there whenever I looked up
- The talented WI ladies for their prolific and delicious cake making skills: the tearoom would be nothing without your efforts
- John Speilman for capturing the day with such great photos
- And of course, our lovely Reverend Jenny for opening the Fete

My own personal and most humble thanks must be extended to the large number of "muscle" that showed up at the crack of dawn to set up all the gazebos, marquees, tables and anything else I decided needed to be done! I am painfully aware of what a challenging person I am to work with and am amazed and grateful that none of you gave into temptation and locked me and my clipboard up in the cupboard. You all demonstrated far more patience than I deserved. Peter,

Malcolm, Rod, Rob, Steve and Nick (who isn't even a resident and didn't deserve to rebuild the arena 3 times), you are stars.

The whole committee wishes to thank all who came and supported the event, spending your hard-earned cash to help us in our fund-raising efforts. Without your continued support, the Fete and the upkeep of the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground could not happen.

My personal view is that The People of our village are awesome.

Quiz Night, October 2019

Always popular, always over-subscribed this year's quiz was a corker! I must declare bias at this point as I was sitting with the winning team, but Paul who wrote it, got the balance of easy to hard questions just right.

The evening was made even better by the delicious chilli, provided by Sue and Julia with not a drop left for leftovers. Thanks to compere Steve for delivering the questions in style and Sarah for adding up our scores!

Bonfire Night, November 2019

Roaring bonfire, amazing pyrotechnics, hot chocolate AND mulled wine. What more could you want? For the second year, in response to increasing safety concerns, a professional company provided the firework display, and it really was impressive!

Although, unusually, not all tickets were sold this year and profits were down, it's heart-warming enough, to see the "locals" turn out to support their community.

A BIG thank you to you all.

Christmas Bazaar, December 2019

This year's Christmas Bazaar went off with even more of a sparkle than usual.

The hall had never looked better, thanks to the craft group and the decorating team's make-over and the beautiful Christmas tree lit to perfection as always.

Father Christmas made a grand entrance arriving in what has become a Waterford tradition, of a bright yellow Triumph Herald! Trevor and Brian, it wouldn't be the same without you!

Santa chose a worthy winner from the drawing competition entries, the ever-popular ham-on-the-bone was dispatched with practiced ease, the bric-a-brac stall was practically emptied of its goods and the chocolate tombola proved to be a most popular stall!

The Guess-the-weight-of-the-cake was a hotly contested prize, with our thanks to Greta for her superb baking skills, and all the raffle prizes claimed.

There wasn't a drop of mulled wine left and only crumbs to show where the mince pies had been.

What a lot happened in just 2 hours!

Thanks to everyone who pitched in to help and everyone who turned up.

It really makes a small village fete into a big community event.

Shindig Jan 2020

The committee decided to fund this annual event again as a thank you to all those unsung heroes of the village, who give their time, support, expertise and muscle to dragging tables and chairs in and out of the cupboard, manning stalls for hours, making endless cups of tea, baking mountains of cakes for sale, buying everything from chocolate eggs to coconuts, scrounging donations from local business for raffle prizes, and generally being jolly nice folk. Peter Crossley and his JunkYard Dawg Jug band generously donated their time and talent again to provide excellent, foot-stompin musical entertainment & Sue Daniels steered us through a couple of line dancing routines, to much hilarity and not a lot of coordination,

Thanks to The decorating squad who made the hall look fabulous, helping to create the right atmosphere for a great night.

Have a look at the web site or our Facebook page to see some photos.

Please do let us know if we inadvertently missed anyone off the invitation list.

In short: a very good year of fun, getting together and fundraising which delivered the amazing total of £20,058.44

Round Up of Projects Undertaken

Our aim for the foreseeable future is to ring-fence as much of our fundraising as possible into the coffers for the new village hall rebuild, so the only investment we made this was into

Hertford In Bloom: Summer 2019

Another first for us this year was the decision to enter, and as it happens, win this Competition. WRC decided to fund the purchase of flowers, compost, troughs and water butts but the resulting profusion of carefully planned flowers was all due to a dedicated team of volunteers who researched, planned, planted and watered for months on end. 1st place, in the community hall category was just recognition of a job well done. Thank you to June, Jane, Brian and Kate for being our own Monty Dons and to your trusty team of under gardeners.

Without any funding, but a project nonetheless, our very own June from Profile Design has most generously given of her time and talent, once more, to up-date our website. It was looking a little tired and has certainly benefited from a bit of a make-over; please check it out! June, we owe you a huge thankyou: THANKYOU!

4. Financial Report for the Year 2018/19 WRC as attached

Jo Willis gave an overview of the finances for the past year showing a positive state of affairs. Noted profits were slightly down due to no income most of March, a reduction in profit for Bonfire Night, due to lower ticket sales (due to poor weather).

However there were increased profits for the Christmas bazaar and the Summer fete which increased by £1800.

Due to the Pandemic, Village Hall lettings were down.

Grateful thanks were expressed to Lacey Owen for her great work dealing with bookings.

Expenditure was less overall, maintenance for the hall was slightly less.

Finances have been audited and the auditor was Nick Sharman who was happy to make no charge for his services.

Financial Report was Proposed by Barbara Perry
Seconded by Peter Crossley

5. Elections of Officers

Thanks were expressed to the retiring Treasurer Julia Cocklin, who had done a sterling job in the role.

Jo Willis was elected unopposed as the new Treasurer.

Proposed by

Seconded by

Elected unanimously

6. Matters Arising

Mark Wadsworth representing the Bridge Club asked when the hall was opening. He said the Bridge Club was happy to continue to pay and allow others to use slots until the Bridge Club could safely reconvene.

Barbara explained that the hall was currently open and relying on users to follow the strict guidelines. No money was required from the Bridge Club while they were unable to use the hall. Lacey will email when the situation changes.

County Councillor Ken Crofton wanted to know if planning permission for the new village hall had been applied for and advised that the support of Mr McMullen should be sought.

Rod Willis explained that WRC had appointed consultants and a preplanning report had been presented to the Planning Office. Mr McMullen has offered his support. The cost of the new hall has been estimated to be in the region of £300,000 - £500,000

Ken Crofton offered his support and help whenever he could as he felt that a new hall was important for the community.

The Committee wished to express huge thanks to Barbara Perry for her sustained hard work, enthusiasm and guidance over the past year.

Meeting closed at 21.05.

1. BARBARA PERRY Acting Chair
2. JO WILLIS TREASURER
3. SHIRLEY HOWELLS ACTING SECRETARY
4. JUNE HOUNSLOW
5. PETER CROSSLEY
6. DAWN CROWDY
7. LACEY OWEN
8. JOHN OAKINS
9. WENDY OAKINS
10. JEAN WILDI
11. TESS GATENS
12. RAY COLE
13. JOAN CHEESMAN
14. GRETA SAUNDES
15. ROD WILLIS
16. LAURA CALAZ
17. KEN CROFT COUNTY COUNCILLOR
18. MARK WADSWORTH BRIDGE CLUB REP

APOLOGIES FROM
AMANDA BARNES
KEN ALFORD
JENNY ALFORD
SARAH BALDWIN
STEVE BALDWIN

ATTENDANCE THIS YEAR WAS VIA ZOOM: ACCEPTANCE OF THE VIRTUAL INVITATION AND USE OF THE DEDICATED LOGIN IN LINK AND PASSWORD, CONSTITUTES SIGNATURE OF ATTENDANCE