



VALLEY ARTS AND CRAFTS



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28th June 2018

Methodist Church Hall, Welshpool

Present:

Jayne Griffiths, Hilda Fix, Sue Lavender, Cynthia Evans, Nina Jones, Parveen Nazar, Peter & Margaret Eccleston, Mandy Britton, Nicky Walters, Gail Lee, Penny Vingoe, Tracey Linthwaite

Apologies:

Bronwyn Strugnell, Mike Browning, Beth McPhee, Stella Gratrix, Sonya Smith, Jen Owen, Lorry Turpin, Ted Rogers, Will Deene, Tony Caplin

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved.

Matters Arising:

Craft Show at Lake Vyrnwy Hotel - this was a lovely venue, advertising was good, and tables were nicely set up but there was not enough foot traffic. Only guests staying at the hotel attended. There were also issues with not enough parking available.

It was suggested that we could tack onto other events in the area, such as Llanwddyn Music Festival. It may also be worth looking at Powys Castle Country & Western Festival.

Will Deene attends a good variety of fairs – we need to talk to him about ones that could be suitable for VAC.

Lake Vyrnwy Marketing Association (LVMA) - The last meeting was 12th April and a date for the next meeting has not yet been set. The secretary of LVMA is attempting to extend membership into the Vyrnwy valleys. This is a good idea in

theory, but the valleys are not seen as a tourist attraction like the lake. A feasibility study is being undertaken.

Membership is due in September and costs £50. We need to discuss whether or not we renew our membership – do the benefits outweigh the cost? This will be discussed in detail at a future meeting.

Slips for items sold – Nicky has volunteered to print slips of sales for each member. These are very useful and help members to track exactly what has been sold. Nicky can only go by what is written on the sales sheets so people in the shop are asked to include as much detail as possible about the items sold. The slips may not always be available at the same time as the monthly money, but they will be provided. Jayne extended thanks to Nicky for taking on this task.

Public Liability Insurance – A quick reminder to everyone who has our insurance to put ‘Member of Valley Arts & Crafts’ on the application form for any craft show or fair.

The cost of insurance this year is £28.00 and is due now. It is a requirement if you sell your work through the shop. This is a very good price for this type of cover.

New Members Pack – A new members pack has been put together and will be sent out to all members. A copy was shown at the meeting. Packs were given to Gail Lee and Tracey Linthwaite.

Advertising – There is an advert and a small write-up in ‘Discover Wales’ – the article has been displayed in the window of the shop.

Seasonal shelf in the shop – Hilda set up the ‘floral’ display and members can still add to this display until Jayne changes it on 19th July.

The next theme is ‘holidays/beach’ and will run from 19th July until 1st September when it will be changed by Hilda to an ‘autumnal’ display.

The autumnal theme will run until 1st October when Sue will change it to a Christmas theme, which will run until the shop closes at the end of October.

House-keeping for the shop – a problem of not enough change in the till has been encountered this week. Both Heather and the café had to be asked for change. Members working in the shop need to ‘phone one of the committee if change is getting low so that more can be brought to the shop. We do not want to lose sales because we do not have any change available. It was suggested that people working in the shop could take some change with them just in case.

Jayne asked that once items like toilet roll or cleaning products start to get low, could someone 'phone one of the committee so that new items can be bought. Please also record this in the notes book so that everyone knows that items have been requested.

Jayne also asked that all those who feel capable, carry out a few minor housekeeping duties, such as getting rid of dead flies on the shelves, hoovering the floor and giving the outside of the shop a sweep. This makes a good first impression as people come into the shop and after all, we all want to sell our work.

Jayne has replaced the old vacuum cleaner in the shop with one that has a little more suction. If anyone knows who the old vacuum belongs to, please let us know so that it can be returned.

Jayne asked if anyone knows of someone who would be willing and capable of putting new putty around the window in the kitchen before the window falls out! All necessary items will be provided by VAC. Cynthia will ask her husband if he can do it.

Treasurer's Report

I would like to tell you how Valley Arts and Craft finances work.

We have the same expenses as any other business (apart from wages) rent, electricity, phone, water, card machine (monthly rental plus a fee for each transaction) insurance and hire for this room.

We also have the one off expenses such as the shop refurbishment, the new brochure, advertising, room hire for craft fairs (which is usually covered by members paying for the tables) and other expenses such as the fire extinguishers every two years and the domain and platform for the web site.

To cover these expenses, we have your annual subscription fee. The insurance premiums you pay do not cover the whole cost as part of the premium goes to running costs as it covers the shop, for fire and flood etc.

The only other income is the 30% commission part of which has to be paid back to the volunteers who work in the shop.

We are not in the business of making a profit, the shop is there to provide an outlet for peoples work, but we have to be able to cover all our expenses. At the moment we are holding our own but as you all realise retail has taken quite a hit in the past few years, especially in the area of fine goods, which we are, I think we have done extremely well to keep our shop open especially realising that we are now in our 11th year.

Going back to insurance. I picked up the paper work from NFU in Llanfair while I was at the dentist today and I will be scanning in the certificate and e mailing it to everyone once they have paid. Remember to put your name on the top so that when you have to show it at crat fairs and shows they will realise it is yours.

Also remember to call either me Sue or Jayne when you are running out of change or housekeeping items and we can sort it out. If you don't tell us we don't know

Online payments can now be accepted – contact Hilda or Sue for the bank account details.

Members' Remarks

There was a discussion on how to attract more members. People were encouraged to hand out the VAC brochures whenever possible, especially at shows they are attending.

It was also suggested that promoting the cheap liability insurance could be a way of attracting new members, even if they were not interested in selling through the shop or attending meetings.

Craft Shows & Events

Guilsfield Show - 9th August

Llanfyllin Show - 11th August

Montgomery Show- 18th August

Berriew Show - 25th August

Llanfechain – 27th August (application form emailed out)

Llanfair - 1st September (application form emailed out)

Llanwddyn Music festival – 1st September

Four Crosses – 24th November (application form emailed out)

Kerry Craft Fair – 24th November, (email Sue for an application form)

Please send details of all craft fairs/shows to Jayne for inclusion on a craft calendar. Penny, Jen and Nicky will put information about shows on the website and social media if they are told about them.

Website and Social Media

Jayne asked if all members could actively promote the VAC website and that if all members who have their own website could refer to the VAC site on it.

All members are entitled to a page on the VAC website. Could everyone who currently has a page, please check and update if necessary. Members who do not have a page and feel they would like to do one, please email your information to Penny an itsPenny@ClayAround.com Please send text and images of your work as separate files and Penny will format them for the website.

Any other Business

Thanks to Aled for giving us the carpet edging. It was suggested that VAC get him chocolate as a thank you.

The idea of a VAC wall hanging was briefly discussed. This is considered to be a good idea but needs more thought about how it can be achieved.

Future Meetings

Wednesday 22nd August

Thursday 18th October

Wednesday 12th December (Christmas get-together)

Tuesday 5th February

Wednesday 20th March – 2019 AGM

A thank you to all the people who helped with making drinks and washing up and to Parveen for the home baking.