



Valley Arts and Crafts

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th July 2015

Methodist Church Hall, Welshpool

Present:

Pam and Stuart Parnell, Angela Hawkins, Cynthia Evans, Jayne Griffiths, Nina Jones, Hilda Fix, Elaine Tulley, Philip Tulley, Diana Rogers, Ted Rogers, Neil and Laura Summers, Penny Vingoe

Apologies:

Clive Potter, Bronwyn Strugnell, Becca Tansley, Sonya Smith, Beth McPhee

Minutes of the last meeting:

Approved

Chairman's Report:

Hilda welcomed everyone to the meeting including our new member Nina Jones. She firstly mentioned the website and suggested that everyone should look at the new members' pages and to make sure that their own page was up to date. It would appear that some people have a page in the shop folder and nothing on the website and vice versa and asked if people could please address this. If you don't have a page on the website then please send a page to Penny who will include it in the members pages section.

Shop

Hilda thanked all those who have remembered to ring the shop to inform the duty member if they have swapped with someone so that the rota on the loo door can be updated. This is really important so that we know at any given time who should be on duty. She also asked that shop members please take their time when entering goods for sale into the till as there have been many mistakes made which has caused Angela a whole heap of extra work trying to correct the mistakes. If you do make a mistake, and we all do from time to time, it is vital if you cannot correct it even with Heather's help, to ensure that you write a note of exactly

what has happened and place it in the money bag with the day's takings so Angela has a least a fighting chance of correcting errors and ensuring that the right people get paid for the sale of their goods. Explain to members of the public that you are a volunteer and not in the shop every day and you will find that most people are sympathetic. If the till roll shows a red line then change it! Heather is on hand to help if you can't manage it alone. There is a list on the loo door with members codes so that if you receive a telephone order or other enquiry you can find out who that person is. If you have time because you are having a slow day then pass the order on to the person concerned but if the shop is busy then please take all the details home with you and then pass the information on that evening. If you are unsure then please ring Pam, Angela or Hilda.

As promised, the shop folder and our pull up banners where at the hotel during the Samworth Challenge but we aren't sure that it actually brought in any more sales at the shop but at least it advertised our presence.

Insurance is now due as it ran out on 26th and the amount payable this year is £25, higher than last year because we have fewer members but still a bargain. This in itself is an incentive to have more members join us as of course the more members we have the cheaper the insurance is. Please remember than you are only insured for events if you include Valley Arts and Crafts with your name when booking as without it the insurance is null and void. Also, please remember that goods will be removed from the shop unless you have current insurance.

Advertising. We have a small write up and an advert in the Discover Mid Wales paper and have a story about us in the next issue of the Chronicle about celebrating our tenth anniversary.

Lake Vyrnwy Marketing Association. You will have read in the papers about the new deal with RSPB and Severn Trent. I intend to bring up the sorry state of the sculpture park at next month's meeting. There have also been rumours about a parking fee so I will ask about that too. No more news on the shop lease yet!

Treasurer's Report:

Bank balances as at 13th July:

Community a/c £678.12: Business Money Manager £3435.84

Takings for July to 25th (at unit 3) £1408.63

Craft shows:

Steam Rally Onslow Park, Shrewsbury 30th and 31st August

Berriew Saturday 29th August

Guilified Show: Thursday 13th August

Llanfair show: 5th September (contact Angela or collect a form at the shop)

Any other business:

Shop Labels: Please note that the shop has its own labels for use on pictures (ask at the counter) and for smaller items swing tags are used by most people. These are fine, but please note that we do not want big labels or dayglo ones on anything as they make the shop look tacky.

Dam Closure:

Pam informed the group that on three consecutive days in September, Severn Trent have agreed to let Channel 4 film an episode of 'Hollyoaks'. As far as we are aware this is something to do with a runaway and someone jumping off the dam! This raises several issues.

On Wednesday 2nd September, crew will be setting up a wire rig on a crane and they intend to close the dam to vehicles from 10am – 5pm. On Thursday 3rd September, a stunt team and actors will be rehearsing and the dam will again close to vehicles from 10am – 6pm. On Friday 4th September, they will be filming and will need total control while filming which could prevent even pedestrian crossing the dam and will close the dam from 8am – 6pm.

They have offered to pay compensation if we encounter loss of trade on those days but haven't said how much!

This undoubtedly means we will lose custom and it would probably not be worthwhile opening but if we lose customers will we have lost them for good? The other issue is that it definitely won't portray Lake Vyrnwy in a good light. If we are going to advertise it then at least it should be aimed at attracting custom not putting them off. Also, Severn Trent have gone ahead and agreed to this without any consultation whatsoever and total disregard to all the businesses that will be affected. It is also one thing that we know about it, but what about the unsuspecting public arriving for a nice day out only to be told you can't take your car over the dam regardless of the fact that there would be nowhere for them to park so they could walk, always of course assuming that they are fit enough to walk that far. The only other way is to drive right round the lake some eleven plus miles! It was suggested that Pam compose a letter of complaint to Severn Trent and that Hilda would sign it. It may not do any good but at least we will have aired our feelings.

Demo:

Cynthia Evans very kindly gave us a demonstration and talk about her glass painting and her knitted scarves which are one of our best sellers. It wasn't possible for members to have a go as the glass paint needs to be burnt on in an oven to set it. It was very interesting and

enjoyed by all. Many thanks again to Cynthia. Hilda mentioned that we need a volunteer demonstrator for the September meeting.

Show and Tell:

Whilst members enjoyed their tea and coffee and biscuits our new member Nina showed members some of her work from crocheted scarves to shabby chic hearts, broaches and little girls hair slides and jewellery holders adorned with lace and ribbons and beads. We wish her all the best and hopefully many sales.