

Minutes of General Meeting of Valley Arts & Crafts held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 3rd October 2013

(Minutes kindly taken by Richard in Pam's absence whilst she was on holiday)

Members Present

Hilda Fix
Angela Hawkins
Janet & Richard Baddiley
Bronwyn Strugnell
David Young
Daphne Bursell
Elaine & Philip Tulley
Lin & Joe Isherwood
Shirley Morris
Dot Weston
Marie Ashton
Tony Caplin
Marge & David Youden
Clive Potter

Apologies

Pam & Stu Parnell
Penny Vingoe
Jean & Tony Maitland
Debbie English
Becca Tansley
Ian & Annie Smith
Abi Crutcher

Minutes of last meeting - agreed but Hilda would like her new email used from now on

Chairpersons Report

VAC Marquees: Ivor suggested sharing their use with Llanwddyn events on the proviso that they would store them. In the unlikely event of a clash of dates for their use, VAC would take precedence. Llanwddyn events would take responsibility for any damage to the marquees whilst they were using them. They have agreed to collect the marquees at a time to be arranged.

Workhouse Food & Craft event: Reports from attendees indicate that this was something of a disaster with at least one stallholder packing and going by the Saturday lunchtime. The public seemed to be unwilling to pay the £5 entrance, which can hardly be said to be surprising as even 'high-end' food and craft events have only been charging that much recently - Liverpool Food Festival and Yarndale for example.

Forthcoming VAC Craft Sale at Llanymynech on 19th October: We have advertised for the relevant issues of the County Times but the Tanat Chronicle seems to be undergoing editorial meltdown so we haven't advertised there.

Dot will be putting out the tables on the Friday pm and would like Hilda & Pam to inform her of the numbers and electricity requirements beforehand.

Richard will take the various VAC signs & banners home on Thursday 10th if someone could collect them from him, otherwise he will take them to the VAC shop on Wednesday 16th.

Ideally the roadside signs would be put out the Monday before the event. We think that permission is now needed to put signs on 'A' roads in Powys, as it is in Shropshire. Uncertain about 'B' roads.

Next meeting is on 29th October and will feature what looks like being an interesting talk by Pauline

about Indian Crafts and drumming. A good turn out please.

December meeting will also be our Christmas get together with members bringing a plate of food - please check the website for who's bringing what so we don't get overloaded with mince pies!

Treasurers Report

Shop sales have been somewhat slower this month which can be attributed to some very awkward roadworks that lasted a week and limited access to the yard. Also, of course, the weather wasn't great and the schools have gone back.

During a slow day in the shop Angela managed to persuade TalkTalk to stop charging £1.19 per month for paper bills and send us the free large-print version intended for persons of impaired vision. She also contacted HSBC Card Services to try to reduce the amount that we would be paying during our closed period. They have agreed that if we write and request it they will collect the card machine in November and return it (given 2 weeks notice) in March before we reopen. This will save us £43 per month over the Winter so over £200 in all. A good use for a slow day - well done Angela.

As of 30th September:

Current Account had £1577.13

High Interest Account had £3393.46

Craft Shows

Pre-Christmas to consider:(I have no dates and details for these)

Aberystwyth Arts Centre

Tregynog - usually 1st weekend November

Minerva at Llanidloes

Memorial Hall at Oswestry, Organised by Made on the Borders, The Gates, Church Street - Elaine reported the last one was good with a table rent of £15

Next year:

Please everyone think about venues etc. for VAC events, whether as 'stand-alone' or as part of a bigger event. Any ideas to Pam or Hilda please ASAP.

Rota

Everyone who has agreed to work in the shop next year should have a rota, if not please ask for one. Please update your diaries and, if you swap days, let Pam know.

Conclusion

There was no speaker or demonstration at this meeting although Marie brought in a wonderful decoupage picture and David brought a dragon. The remainder of the meeting was a 'farewell' to Janet & Richard and a general natter with a look back over the scrapbook that charts VAC history.

A personal thank you from Janet & Richard for the send-off presents, not forgetting the caterpillar cake. We much appreciated the sentiments shown both in person and in a large number of emails that Hilda received. We will be taking fond memories of all of you with us and hope to be able to attend occasional meetings in future.