

HAVERSHAM SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, 11th MARCH

7.30pm at the Social Centre

Your views and opinions on the Social Centre's activities are valued and greater participation from residents would be very welcome. Please do come along.

AGENDA

1. Confirm Minutes of last AGM + matters arising
2. Chairman's Report for 2018/9 (below and overleaf)
3. Comments on the Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report for 2018/9
5. What is needed for the Social Centre in 2019-20—
general discussion
6. Election of new committee for 2019-20
7. Appointment of Auditor
8. Any other business

CHAIR'S REPORT 2018-19

It has been a difficult year as we had to cancel a number of the events on which we rely to keep our finances healthy. May Day was cancelled because of logistical problems and similarly the Fete was also affected because of uncertainty about access to the recreation ground. Planning begins early for this event. If it is to go ahead this year, it will need a team of younger residents to help the committee organise the event.

In addition to all this we have to maintain the fabric of the building and keep the premises compliant with Health & Safety directives. Our cleaner does a weekly safety check and we do a six-month safety check and an annual check. The electrical equipment is PAT-tested every year and also the fire extinguishers. The Council do an annual maintenance check and the school includes us in the Legionella checks and the smoke alarm tests. We pay a sum of money each year to the School under the Fair Charging system for these checks plus payment for consumption of electricity and gas and any maintenance work, both inside and out, in those areas that we share.

USER GROUPS

The centre is used by the committee and by the Parish Council for their monthly meetings. Yoga takes place on Tuesday evenings, Fun Bunch meet monthly on the second Friday of the month, T'ai Chi meet monthly on the second Saturday of each month and Jubilee Club meet monthly on a Wednesday afternoon. The Truckers meet roughly on a monthly basis depending on whether they have displays to go to. We continue to be popular for birthday parties and general family celebrations.

At the moment the Centre is underused, and it would help the finances if we had more regular weekly bookings. Line Dancing finished last year due to poor attendance figures and it would be good to see more people come to the Yoga classes.

EVENTS

We managed to put on some events this year were. We started with our Easter Bingo which was well

attended. We were not able to hold our Easter Egg Hunt and as mentioned earlier we had to cancel May Day. If we are to hold May Day celebrations this year, we will need some new organisers as, due to family commitments, Kim does not have the time to teach the dances. If anyone feels that they could teach the dances, Louise Reid is happy to help with the organisation.

We held a new event in June, a Curry and Quiz night; this was a great success. Louise Reid organised the Curry section and Harvey and Lesley Gilbert organised the Quiz section. We all enjoyed it very much and we are repeating the evening hopefully on Saturday March 9th.

We did not hold the Fete this year. there were a number of reasons - difficulty in planning ahead was one but others included the difficulty in finding a suitable date that would coincide with access to the recreation ground when work finished at the school. We plan to hold a Fete this year on Saturday June 9th; this is very early but it will avoid clashes with other events and most of the committee will be around on those dates. We will still need a lot of assistance from the public as many of us on the committee are getting older.

I am pleased to say that the annual cricket match did go ahead and it was a beautiful day, maybe too hot but it made a change from the usual British Summer weather. Upper Haversham were the victors again this year. The man of the match was Adam Knox. We have not yet arranged a date for this year yet.

The Village Show was held on the first Saturday in September and although the number of entrants was down from last year, the number of entries was not. It was pleasing to see new entrants and also to welcome those who support us every year. There is a wealth of talent in the Village and there was an excellent display to admire for those who came to the afternoon session. This year's Show will be on 7th September.

The Children's Christmas Party at the beginning of December saw 47 children entertained. A disco and lots of different games and activities helped to keep the children entertained. We appreciate the effort that goes into the preparation for this event. We asked for helpers as we were thin on the ground last year and there was an excellent response. Natalie organised the event, the disco and present buying, wrapping etc., but wasn't able to be present on the day for very long, due to illness. Holly and Kim took over the general organisation in the afternoon and we were able to have the craft tables and the usual activities; amongst their helpers was Trinity Irving who was a star, after being to so many previous parties she knew exactly what needed to be done.

The following week we had our usual Christmas Bingo. We were slightly down on numbers this year but not on takings thanks to the generosity of those who were able to come to the evening.

In December we also held another workshop hoping to build on the success of last year's wreath making. On this occasion we made a table decoration and, as before, our demonstrators were well-prepared, and we were very pleased with our efforts. This workshop was not as popular as the wreath making one from the previous year, and next year we will look to holding a wreath making session in late November ready for Advent.

Again as I said last year, we have had a number of challenges, with the expansion of the school we have to re-think our outside activities. A particular problem is the timing of Jubilee Club. We are working with the school and the authorities to try and resolve this difficulty. Plus we have had no Council Authority grant to help us with our finances. Andrew Geary kindly gave us £200 from his funding to help us fund our activities and we were very grateful for that.

I will repeat what I said last year: all these activities take a lot of planning and hard work, and we are a small committee. We operate on a sub-committee basis and ideally different people are responsible for each event. However, with so few of us, it is not always possible to spread the load as evenly as we would like. The community owe the committee members a lot for their hard work and dedication.

The committee, as always, has been a great support to me through the year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. Our Treasurer, Rachel Paton does an excellent job of managing our finances, Kim Irving our Bookings Secretary co-ordinates all our hirer and outside bookings, Robert Foster, Deputy

Chair and right hand man helps to maintain the fabric of the building, Pat Brightman keeps us on course with her wealth of local knowledge plus Pat represents the Church, Lesley Gilbert does all our advertising material and is representative for the Jubilee Club, Natalie Irving, Holly Sains and Louise Reid have all led sub-committees for our events. They have all made a positive contribution to the Social Centre and this is in addition to their very busy lives.

I must not forget our Parish Council representative, Barry Clift, who has also played an important part in our activities and decision making. I have had no official information about our Council representative after the sad loss of Jeanette Green. Andrew Geary thought Jeanette's replacement might become our representative but as I have had no official notification of this I continue to send the minutes to Andrew.

Again, I have to repeat myself in saying that the committee are also very lucky in having the support of their family members, what would we do without them? We appreciate the support we have from our First Aider, Elaine Mobbs. Elaine is retiring this year and we shall have to find a new first aider - she will be a hard act to follow; we presented Elaine with a bouquet and thanked her for her loyalty. We rely on Colin Butler and his firework team for the success of our Firework Spectacular. Also special thanks to Chris Marsh, who stood down as a committee member three years ago but has continued to help us at all our functions. I would like to thank our cleaner Gemma Jones for her work at the Social Centre, the Parish Council for letting us use the recreation ground for our outdoor events and we continue to work with the Head and School for the good of our community. I would also like to thank all those who have come to help at various times through the year and also to thank all those who have come to our functions and have helped us to keep the centre running.

The Future I make my usual plea for more committee members. We need more people on the committee it really need not be an onerous task. We meet once a month and the full committee meetings only last one hour. As I have said many times before, new people mean new ideas and new impetus. Your Social Centre needs you. I am getting older and so are many of the committee. We need you desperately.

Please come along to the AGM. If you are unable to volunteer for the committee at least you can let us know if we are providing what you want. It would be even better if you could join the committee!!!! We are a friendly bunch and it is a great way to meet people.

Jackie Brown

Chair