

Llangors Youth and Community Centre

Annual Report 2020

Current government advice, as we are all aware, does not allow face to face meetings or large gatherings due to the corona virus pandemic. The period of 'lockdown' that has been in place since the middle of March requires us to stay at home except under very specific circumstances and, if it is necessary to go outside, then social distancing must be adhered to i.e. remaining 2 metres apart, and this is likely to continue for some time. As a consequence, following guidance from the Charity Commission and approval of the Trustees, this year's Annual General Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday May 20th, has been cancelled.

Despite all of the above constraints, it is still possible for me, as chairperson, to provide an Annual Report and the first thing that I wish to do is to thank all of the committee members for their continued hard work throughout the past year. It has, once again, been a very busy year.

Special thanks must once again go to our treasurer, Mike Featherstone, who has done a tremendous job, both over the last 12 months and for a substantial period of time before that, keeping the finances in good order. Mike has continued to be extremely supportive to me in my role as Chair and I always appreciate his guidance.

Thanks must also be extended to Pat Hope, committee member, who has, once again, continued to provide refreshments during the weekly coffee mornings. This provides a valuable opportunity for people to meet up and chat, as well as providing a small but steady income for the Community Centre.

I would also like to offer special thanks to Alison and Derek Willmott, who continue to work hard taking bookings, arranging viewings, writing receipts, ensuring monies are received and ensuring that the Community Centre is always ready for any event. Your hard work is very much appreciated.

Summary of activities:

1. 20th Anniversary Celebrations. April 25th 2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the date when the Community Centre was opened. This anniversary was due to be celebrated on May 2nd with a 'Day of Celebration', which had been planned for everyone living in the village to participate, with an afternoon tea party at the Community Centre along with children's activities, an early evening disco for older children and an evening of entertainment by Talgarth Male Voice Choir and Lynne Griffin followed by the Uskulele Band, with a bar for the later evening events. Due to current restrictions, however, this event could not take place. Hopefully it can be rearranged for next year when a 'Coming of Age Celebration' (21 years) can be held.
2. Website and Wifi. Wally James, committee member, has been instrumental in updating the website, making it much more attractive and providing lots of useful and current information. Requests had been made from time to time for access to Wifi, so the committee decided that this should be installed in the Community Centre. This is provided by BT and is now operational and proving useful.
3. Regular Bookings. The Community Centre remains busy with a variety of regular weekly bookings, which are open to the public and provide activities for a wide range of ages. As usual, there has been a turnover in regular bookings this year, with some classes no longer being held, namely a dance class and Beavers, whilst a new Tai Chi class has recently commenced, which is proving quite popular.

4. Special events. One wedding reception and one Christening party were held during the year. The number of weddings is less than the previous year but these naturally vary from year to year. The Centre has supported a community organised 'Fire Aid' event, raising funds for severe fires in Australia. The Community Centre was given free of charge and many members donated items for the event. The Community Centre has also supported several events aimed at raising money for a new children's play park in the village.
Defibrillator training has been provided, to ensure that the public are familiar with the immediate management of a cardiac arrest and the AED equipment sited at the Community Centre.
5. Fundraising. This is an important aspect of the work of the committee, in order to ensure that sufficient funds are available for the Centre to function. A village fete was held on July 20th 2019, which was a great success. It was fortunate that the adjacent playing field was available for the event, which allowed children not only to compete in sports events but to run around and have fun safely. A number of stalls were manned by committee members and the local community. The children in Llangors Primary School took part in the painting competition. These were displayed around the main hall and provided a colourful spectacle for all to see. Also proving a huge success was the annual limerick competition with 15 entries. For the first time in many years, a Scarecrow competition was held in the village. Over 30 entries were received with residents displaying their scarecrows in their front gardens, creating quite a spectacle in the village for all to see during the weeks before and after the fete. In total over £1600 was raised.
An annual Christmas Market was held in the Community Centre on Monday December 9th. This again proved to be very popular with a variety of stalls selling Christmas presents and food items. Just over £388 was raised.
6. Post Office. The Post Office is open in the Community Centre on Monday and Thursday mornings. This service is used regularly by residents and visitors. At the same time, the centre is open for people to have tea/ coffee and biscuits. Once a month a coffee morning is held in aid of a charity.
7. Maintenance. With the Community Centre now 20 years old, it is important that the building is maintained to a high standard. Throughout the year, necessary maintenance work has taken place, including, in preparation for the 20-year celebrations, internal decorating.
8. Play Park Project. In July 2019 the children's play equipment adjacent to the Community Centre, on ground owned by the Centre, was inspected and found to be unsafe. The equipment was removed and the play area closed. The Committee are now in discussion with Powys County Council to obtain a 25 year lease on a small portion of land on the opposite side of the Community Centre for a new children's play park. Discussions are ongoing but have been protracted, due to issues centring on the termination of a lease on the land by the Church in Wales. Fundraising to provide equipment for the play park, however, has continued.
9. Community Shop Project. Residents have, for some time, been asking for a shop in the village. A steering group has been set up consisting of members from the villages around the lake and representatives from the Community Centre. It has been decided to have a community run shop which will be sited on the old play area adjacent to the Community Centre. The committee are supportive of this initiative. Planning permission is being sort.
It is hoped that a community run shop, community centre and children's play park, all adjacent to the village primary school, will provide an active social hub in the centre of the village.

Future plans:

1. Succession planning
2. Increasing general income and fundraising when the Community Centre reopens following the corona virus pandemic
3. 21st Anniversary Celebrations

Special Thanks:

Mike Featherstone has now resigned from his lengthy tenure as Treasurer of the Community Centre. I would like to personally thank Mike for all his hard work and dedication to this Community Centre over the past years both as a member of the Community Centre Management Team and as Treasurer. He became more involved at the building stage of the new Community Centre in 1999 and in particular seeking subsequent grants.

The Community Centre, in fact, remains a facility at the heart of the village that everyone can be proud of and that is, in large part, down to the sheer hard work and dedication of, among others, Mike Featherstone. His conscientious and meticulous work in performing his many duties, which extend beyond his stewardship of the finances, will be hard to replace.

He has also helped me enormously since becoming chair of this committee and has made my job so much easier. His help and guidance have been invaluable, so it is heartening that he has indicated that he would like to remain as a committee member.

As from March 23rd 2020, all activities in the Community Centre have ceased due to a corona virus pandemic. Fortunately, the Post Office, considered an essential service, has continued to open on Monday and Thursday mornings but refreshments cannot be provided. Thanks are extended to Crickhowell Post Office for providing this service.

At the time of writing this report, the 'lockdown' is still in place and looks as if it will be, in some form, for some considerable time.

Melrose East,

Chair, Llangors Youth and Community Centre