

DISCOVER YSTRADGYNLAIS

INFORMAL GENERAL MEETING

30/8/18 at 7pm

Venue: Welfare Hall

Committee members present: Barbara Anderson; Cynthia Davies; Hywel Evans; Emma Purvis; Ruth Long (Treasurer); Ams Kingra; Mike Jessop (Chair); Sally Speedy; Mary Bamber; Sue McNicholas

Apologies: Miranda Burdett (Secretary)

Mike welcomed the Friends of Ystradgynlais and members of the public to the meeting and introduced the member of the committee. Attendees were asked to sign the attendance register.

Report from Chair and Secretary was combined:

“Welcome to our second general meeting and many thanks for giving up your time to come and support us. A big thank you to the Welfare Hall for allowing us to use their facilities and for their continued support throughout the year.

For those who have not yet noticed, the bar is open.

Firstly an explanation of why this is an Informal General Meeting and not a Formal Annual General Meeting.

We have now been running as an elected group for a full year. We are in the process of becoming a formally adopted organisation and registered with the Charity Commission.

The plan is for Discover Ystradgynlais to become an Incorporated Charitable Organisation an ICO. That is a legally recognised institution which will allow the group to function and run as a recognised entity and be answerable to the Charity Commission.

So far we have agreed a constitution, we have an elected committee that holds minuted meetings and manages the organisation and we have a wider group of members, also known as Discover Ystradgynlais Friends.

You will note that this time last year we were called YSATT (Ystradgynlais Society for the Arts, Trade and tourism). We agreed the new name: Discover Ystradgynlais to better reflect the wider work that we are doing.

Our new constitution calls for a third of the trustees to stand for election each year. Additional nominees can be proposed by the membership. That means each trustee will have to stand for election every 3 years. This is our first anniversary and we are not yet fully constituted due to the complexity of the application process and delays at Charity Commission.

Once we are up and running as an ICO, and I expect that within the next couple of months, we will fully adopt the constitution and hold our first formal AGM in August/September next year and follow the resignation/election protocol.

This year we have had some natural churn on the committee, Katie Wilkinson, who provides excellent PR services, stood down as a trustee because she needs to charge for the time to produce the high quality copy and resources for DY.

Tristan Davies has now been elected as chair of the town council and needed more time for that significant role. We were sorry to lose his valuable help but he remains a close friend of DY.

Meurig Evans has stood down due to over commitments but will remain our link to the valuable support of the Town Council.

As a result we are holding elections for 3 committee posts and the nomination requests were circulated to the friends. This resulted in 5 applicants who appear on your voting paper. Can I ask the membership (ie the friends of Discover Ystradgynlais) to each vote for up to 3 candidates? You don't need to use all your votes and if you only want to vote for one or two candidates, you may do so.

Please can I ask those eligible to vote do so now and return your ballot papers to Sue.

Anyone wishing to sign up as a member/friend of Discover Ystradgynlais, we have application forms available. There is no fee and it means we have an opportunity to keep you informed and up to date with activities.

We are still developing a website and we will be the first to admit that communication is a bit hit and miss. We will circulate the meeting minutes to all the friends and aim to keep you up to date with plans and details of events.

Some dates for your diary:

We have the Christmas Fair and lighting ceremony planned for the weekend of 24th November. Lights will switch on Friday 23rd November. A full day of activities planned for Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th.

We have the Big Weekend Event booked for the weekend of June 14 15 and 16, 2019

So what have we achieved in this first year.

We have continued the support, structure and back up for the Blodau group who coordinate and organise the much admired and appreciated plantings around Ystradgynlais. The Hanging baskets, The planters, the bedded areas around the Library, Village entrance, memorial gardens and the church is all down to the hard work of Blodau. Having achieved a silver award for newcomers last year we are fingers-crossed for bigger and better things with the announcement of this years judging due on the 14 of September.

Can I ask for a round of applause for Blodau in anticipation and appreciation?

The switching on of the Christmas lights last year was a fantastic evening in the Gorsedd. We accept a few teething problems (ok an electrical disaster) but the event was well supported and we were hugely grateful to Michael Sheen's agreement to switch on (or not) the lights. He has remained an enthusiastic supporter of Discover Ystradgynlais and has agreed to become our charity Patron.

The Christmas Fair brought us seasonal festivities including parades and stalls. Unfortunately the cruel blast of winter exposed us to the elements and some last minute adjustments were needed. However it still brought us together as a community and provided a fun and enjoyable event.

Then to the Ystradgynlais Big Weekend. The marquee in the Gorsedd proved invaluable in the face of the great Welsh weather. The weekend was kicked off with Gin & Jazz on Friday night followed by a full day of free family fun on Saturday. Events at the Welfare and Con Club combined with the busking sites aimed to distribute the visitors around the town.

Sunday pulled in an international team of professional musicians providing an amazing Proms from operatics to songs-from-the-shows and sing-alongs.

I am sure to will agree that we had a wonderful weekend that was very much enjoyed by all who attended.

In addition to our main events we had two very successful fund-raisers. I would like to thank all those who helped and ran the Fashion Show and the evening with Raspberry Jam. All funds raised were used to support the main events

All events were put together by a great team who worked tirelessly to ensure maximum entertainment. Discover Ystradgynlais is very appreciative of the hard work from all the volunteers who give up their valuable time to deliver some amazing community events.

We appreciate the support we have received from our community:

St Cynog's Church for the use of the Hall facilities and the vicarage driveway.

We are indebted to the local traders and suppliers who give up their time and loan equipment from generators to sound systems, lifting, fixing and electrics. Everyone was, and I am sure will continue to be, brilliant.

A very grateful thank you to all of our sponsors who provided much needed income.

Special thanks need to be extended to our main sponsors from Triumph/Touratec and a particular thanks and mention for John Adams at Celtic Minor and Plas Y Rhosyn.

Without John's very generous support the Big Weekend would not have been possible.

And finally a big thank you to the wonderful community of Ystradgynlais for pulling together.

Showing us, and everyone who visits us, what a special place this is."

Following the count of votes the following were duly elected:

Carwyn Hopton

Jess Roberts

Lucy Thomas

The amount of time needed to run events like the Big Weekend and the hard work required was also noted by members of the public. An appeal was made for any more volunteers prepared to give some time to DY events.

Ruth provided a financial report in the format of a Powerpoint Presentation.

Signed Off Year End Accounts to 31st March 2018

Income			Expenses		
Ticket income	Event ticket sales	£3,516.89	Donations	Scouts donation	£100.00
Other Income	Santa Income	£320.00		Welfare Hall donation	£500.00
	Coffee Morning	£25.60		St John Ambulance donation	£100.00
	Fundraising	£1,487.96		Cor Persain	£50.00
	Fashion show	£2,358.50	Supplies	Foodstuffs/Consumables	£7,104.42
	Raffles	£969.00		Flowers and plants	£10,788.10
	Donations	£2,218.50		Reindeer deposit	£96.00
	Bunting	£1,497.45		Reindeer Hire	£954.00
Trader Income	Traders	£11,498.20		Mike's Donkeys	£275.00
Sponsors	Sponsorship	£7,350.00		Red Dragon bunting flags	£750.00
Grants	Welsh Water Grant	£250.00	Running Costs	Summer watering	£411.89
	Tesco Grant	£1,000.00		Repairs and renewals	£272.12
Other	Lights Refund	£239.74		Nite Lite Security	£290.40
	Bank interest	£1.50		Licences and Insurance	£1,303.00
			Publicity	Advertising	£1,530.00
	Total Income	£32,733.34		Total Expenses	£24,524.93
	Surplus for Year	£8,208.41			

Bank Account Balances as of 31st March 2018

Cash at Bank 31.03.2018	A/C	
	Historic	48416468 £629.39
	Main	44594360 £1,497.95
	Sponsor	49607660 £2,000.31
	Bunting	49474668 £1,468.78
	Blodau	49606568 £2,611.98
	Cash total	£8,208.41

Provisional Finances for the Big Weekend



Provisional Financial results

	Gin & Jazz	Buskagynlais	Proms in the Gorsedd	Total
Income	£12,244.63	£7,681.60	£9,569.38	£29,495.62
Expenditure	£6,765.82	£5,097.32	£10,258.37	£22,121.51
Balance	£5,478.81	£2,584.28	–£688.99	£7,374.11

A question was asked about why the Proms, which was part of the Big Weekend, had made a loss. It was suggested that the weather had not been good, some people may not have understood what the event was and the broad range of music included. It was also noted that this was the first time an event like this had been held. Nathan From WhatTech agreed and stated that events often make a loss when they are held for the first time.

A general discussion followed. It was noted that the purpose of DY is to promote the village and we need to work to continue this. It was also noted that the marquee had been essential for the Big Weekend due to the weather and DY needs to generate the income needed to support events through running bars, providing food etc.

Mike closed the meeting.

Signed as a true record:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nathan', written on a light grey rectangular background.

Thursday, 13th September 2018