

ULGHAM VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7pm

Attendees: Helen Shaw (HS) Lynne Scott (LS) Helen Dunn (HD) Jim Scott (JS) George Brown (GB) Colin Tait (CT) Pamela Lamb (PL) Pauline Martin (PM) David Parkin (DP) Lynn Lycett (LL) Andrea Dowell (AD) Angela Barratt (AB) Maureen Shotton (MS) Adrian Shotton (AS) Laura Chisholm (LC) John Bateman (JB) Mike Dunn (MD)

1. Welcome

- HS welcomed and thanked everyone to the meeting and said how we are all showing care for the community and a willingness to help the community.

2. Apologies for Absence: Paul Barton, Dave Wilson, Deb Wilson, Janet Brown, Eric Winton, Peter Elliott, Denise Elliott

3. The minutes of last AGM held on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 were read.

4. Matters Arising

- HS said that sadly Little Owls is no longer in existence so now not part of the UVA. Sue Gill who ran Little Owls sold the equipment and she gave the proceeds to charity. The UVA gave a donation to the charity for the items we kept for use at events.
- HS said that safeguarding and the contacts and contact numbers remain the same.
- HS said that First Aid needs to be refreshed and are going to use St Johns Ambulance for a basic First Aid course which should be sufficient for our needs.
- HS said there will need to be a named person.
- A new dome tent and new bench seat have been purchased.
- It was decided that a pool table would not be suitable to use in Rendezvous as would be too small.
- The Boules competition wasn't able to take place and will need to happen at some point.
- Thanks was given to John Bateman for clearing the Boules court.
- The minutes of AGM on 23.1.24 were ratified.

5. Reports

Chair – Helen Shaw

- HS reported that it had been a very busy year with six main activities.
- Tubs and baskets had been planted and watered.
- The pads on the defibrillator have been changed.
- Rendezvous is well attended with on average 15 people attending every Wednesday morning.
- The UVA supported two events, the Plant Sale and celebration of 80 years since D Day in the WI Hall.
- Donations were given to Children in Need, Sue Gill for charity and Joe Dixon's race in Kenya.
- HS expressed her thanks to everyone for supporting the UVA.

Treasurer – Helen Dunn

- Attendees were given a copy of the Income and Expenditure Account for 2024.
- HD explained some items from the Account.
- Miscellaneous in expenditure was the total of small amounts which had been spent.
- The income from the Firework night on November 5th was what was taken at the gate.
- £100 was paid to the Cricket Club to cover the cost of drinks and electricity used.
- HD reported that there is a healthy balance of £3,503.48

6. Nominations for Officers

- HS asked attendees if anyone would like to take on the roles of Chair, Secretary or Treasurer. No one stepped forward.
- HS asked if everyone was happy for the present officers to continue in their posts.
- JS said there should be a vote. PL proposed and George Brown seconded and everyone agreed.

7. Reports from Groups

St John's Church

- PL reported that the new vicar Julia Lacey has good ideas and had organised extra services at the end of December. There was a service online on Boxing Day.
- There are joint services rotating between Ulgham, Widdrington and St Bartholomew and they support each other in the services.
- A very successful Festival of Angels was held in the church in December; there were a wide variety of angels including knitted angels, angels made from paper plates, fluffy angels with lit up wings and sculptured wood. All groups in the village contributed to the display.
- The 100 Club is still going and there has been a Dance and Ladies Clothes Sale which have raised funds for the church. PL said the church would like to thank the village for helping with the fund raising.
- PL reported that there were no major works are to be done. Two bars are off on the lights and the lantern needs to be sorted too. The draught excluder is helping. Volunteers are helping to tidy up the outside.

WI

- PM reported that the WI celebrated their 100th Birthday Party in December as they were founded in 1924. There are still some events happening this year.
- Valentine Dance
- Free coffee and cake morning on Saturday 5th April.
- New heaters have been fitted and they are quiet and working well.
- New windows and new gates have been fitted.
- Additional small extinguisher in Supper room is foam for materials such as books
- Co2 extinguishers one in supper room and one on stage specifically for electrical fires.
- There has always been a water extinguisher in the main lobby.
- The WI are very appreciative of everyone's support and the hirings.

Cricket Club

- CT reported that the start of the season was a washout and didn't start till the last weekend in May.
- They lost 8 games during the season and finished 3rd in the league.
- CT expressed thanks to the members who helped to run the bar on a Friday night and to Keith and Kay Lowes for the food on Feast Day.
- The Cricket Club AGM is on Tuesday 28th January. A new secretary is needed.
- The nets will open on 16th March to 13th April.
- Season starts on 19th April. The first game is away to Stobswood.
- The football match between the village and the cricket club happened on Boxing Day.
- CT is going to have someone look at the molehills on the playing field.

Meadows

- DP reported that two more drains have been put in and gravel added in the two wettest parts.
- There are now steps on both sides of the stepping stones and the Rivers Trust have put in granite slabs.
- The worst of the blackthorn has been removed and now have the use of a chipper on loan.

- Seven people have been helping but sadly four people, Peter, Denise, Julie and Paul are unable to continue helping.
- Only David, David Newman and John Bateman left so will be seeking more volunteers.
- DP reported that he has as yet been unable to source free trees as the area is only half a hectare.
- HS said we would like to congratulate DP and his volunteers for all their hard work.
- LS said that information about a possible source of funding for trees or other materials for the Meadows had been forwarded to the UVA. This funding is from the Asda Foundation – Outdoor Community Spaces Fund. DP said that he would look at it.

UCBS

- In the absence of Dave Wilson LS read his report.
- The Parish Council have had another 5 year ACV placed on The Forge from December 2024. It is understood that the owner had formally appealed.
- UCBS AGM is scheduled for 25th February.
- It will take place in either the WI Hall if 100 or less attendees, or a larger venue will be secured in the Morpeth area.
- LC asked what did the placing of the order on The Forge mean. JS explained that the ACV only prevents the owner from selling the property for development without applying for change of use.
- HS explained about the Fish and Chip van which was situated at the west entrance to The Forge on Saturday 18th. A lot of people appeared to use it but there was a problem with cars parking in the Forge estate. The Parish Council were going to be in touch with the food company and offer them the use of the playing field car park.

8. Events this coming year

- The Easter Trail was successful last year so is going to happen again this year.
- The 5th May which is the first Bank Holiday is the 80 year remembrance of the end of the war, incorporating VE and VJ Days. We are waiting to see if there are going to be a national celebration.
- The Duck Race will take place on the second Bank Holiday 24-26th May.
- The hanging baskets and planters will be planted and displayed in May/June. Will need more help with watering.
- Firework Display will be on 5th November and there may be some Christmas event.
- The main event happening this year is the celebration of owning the playing field for 40 years.
- A grant is being applied for to augment the equipment on the playing field.
- A skier and space walker for adult/older children use.
- A picnic table with games top – chess and snakes and ladders.
- Play crates which can be used by a wide age range of children and promotes creative and imaginative play.
- Some of the surfaces need looking at.
- HS said that the constitution has to be included in the application for funding and some wording needed to be altered – it was agreed to change the phrase “race and colour” to “ethnicity and sexual orientation”.
- HS asked for attendee’s thoughts on changing the name of The Feast as a lot of people don’t fully understand what it is. Suggestions were A Celebration of Summer or a 40th Anniversary Celebration.
- This event would be a free event and it was agreed it would happen on the last weekend in June and would be called A 40th Birthday Party.
- There will be a scarecrow competition organised by the church on 23rd-25th August.
- There will also be a Clothes Sale on 26th April.

9. Contact Sheet

- HS asked attendees if we should continue to produce a contact sheet.
- The newsletter is very good but not much space left for photos as the diary dates side is now becoming congested and there is a repetition of regular activities in the WI Hall. This is one of the reasons why the contact sheet was produced. People would be able to see the regular activities on the contact sheet. Any changes to the regular activities would then be put on the monthly newsletter.
- JB suggested that perhaps the details of regular group activities could be put on the village noticeboard and people signposted to it.
- HS said details would be put on the noticeboard, WI Hall and on the website.
- JS said the contact sheet could perhaps be left till after elections in June.
- GB reminded that there is a village booklet available to new people in the village.

10. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 20th May