**Chairman’s Report GCRCG AGM**

**November 2021**

**Purpose:**

The Chair’s Annual Report reviews activities over the past year, to highlight major developments and to cast an eye forward to the coming year.

**Introduction:**

COVID has continued to impact our lives in so many ways, despite the welcome introduction of the vaccination program. In some ways this added, perversely some might say, a greater degree of uncertainty that might be summarised as “Can we? Can’t we?”

But before we get to that, we must record the passing of some in our Community[[1]](#footnote-1):

Eddie Doylerush

Ron Gills

We recognise the community may well have lost loved ones, family members and friends. We extend our condolences to you.

**Review:**

Our year started with a trimmed down Winter Festival in December.

The Christmas Tree “Lights-On Ceremony” was attended by well over 30 children from our community.

It was noted that Santa’s arrival to distribute presents got delayed, having become locked in the pub garden.

Thank you to all those who helped make the Festival a success, in such difficult circumstances.

We ran some Zoom quizzes over the winter which raised some much-needed funds but more importantly helped connect people through those dark months.

The Community rallied to support Lisa, John and June at the Ty Gwyn in many ways. Part of this effort involved purchasing a marquee so the courtyard could be covered. I was very proud of the Community’s generosity at that time.

And so to 2021..

The “Can we? Can’t we?” of ever-changing Government rules ultimately led to the cancellation of Rowen’s Car Boot Sales for the year. It had proved impossible to anticipate what would be needed Covid-wise. We also recognised it was too early for the village to have regular influxes of people from across the county and we wanted to continue protecting our vulnerable residents.

Nevertheless, there has been progress on a few long-standing issues.

The village toilets at Llanerch have now had their face-lift; they look so much the better for it and I understand are ready to receive visitors when opened next year.

Flood gates have now been installed at the ford and have proved very effective. It is being well manned by locals living nearby.

During the year, 20 mph speed limit signs were erected at the entry points to the village. Double-yellow lines were marked out at strategic points along Rowen Road. There have been mixed reactions concerning the aesthetics of this but hopefully it will make the village safer for one and all.

We also found the funds to renew the Welsh Flag that hangs at the flagpole.

**Looking Forward…**

**Winter Festival 2021 4th Dec**

We are running the Winter Festival again and Eileen will brief us a little later.

**Rowen Community Quiz**

The Rowen Community Quiz will run monthly over the winter. We use the Zoom platform and if anyone wants to join in but is uncertain how to get set up with Zoom, please do make yourself known to me.

**Car Boot Sales 2022**

We expect that Car Boot Sales will start again next April. How they will operate remains to be seen but we are excited at the prospect of their return.

**The Grave of Wallace the Dog**

It was Eddie who worked with the SNP and landowner to have the grave protected and safeguarded for posterity. He wrote and posted the information sheet beside the grave but it is now looking worse for wear.

In the light of Eddie’s passing, I am wondering whether a working party might be formed to up-grade the Memorial on Coed Mawr driveway. Please let me know if that interests you.

**Conclusion**

Finally, it only leaves me, to thank Catherine, Helen, Linda and Eileen for their support on the Committee over the past three years. We wish them well as they no doubt move on to other endeavours.

Goronwy Edwards is standing as a community member - we welcome his energy and support, knowing his considerable knowledge and experience will also prove invaluable.

On behalf of the whole Management Group I wish you a very Happy Christmas, a peaceful New Year and a healthy and safe 2022.

I will now pass over to John for the Treasurer’s Financial Report.

1. With sincere apologies for any family member we have missed [↑](#footnote-ref-1)