

Minutes Bala and Penllyn Tourism Association

Wednesday 13th March, 7pm
Plas yn Dre

Apologies: David Mitchell, Gwyneth Jones, Rosina Jones, Sarah Lind, Stephanie and Toby Hickish

Attending: Mel Williams-Chairman, Ray Hind-Treasurer, Katrina Le Saux-Secretary, Olwen Davies, Carys Davies, Carol Keys Shaw, Peter Tooth, Peter Field, Sue Davies, Catherine Rosa, Dorothi Evans, Gary Thomas, Jack Reeves.

Guest: Dinah del Chambre.

Last meetings minutes were read and approved.

Mel Williams told the Association that she had been successful in securing £4,000 of grant money for the cost of new notice boards in the High St. As the £3,000.00 promised last year from Gwynedd Council had been withdrawn it is encouraging that the project is back on track.

The Chairman's report was presented. (attached)

The Treasurer's report was presented. (attached)

Katrina Le Saux suggested that fund raising for local causes could be held throughout the summer months. The Cinema was a possible venue with concerts being held there on Thursday evenings.

This needs to be addressed with other interested charities and associations.

March 1st falls on a Saturday next year. Should events be organised to celebrate and to spotlight Bala as a tourism destination? Councillor Dilwyn Morgan has already intimated that he would be interested in becoming involved in St David's Day celebrations. Again this requires other interested bodies being approached.

Katrina also explained that she and Mel Williams had been asked to observe the interviews for the seasonal TIC post. Both candidates interviewed were local to the area. The successful candidate would be informed at the end of the week.

The TIC would re-open Monday 25th March.

Ray Hind thanked Dinah del Chambre for the beautiful animal drawings she has produced for a wildlife leaflet for the GoBala website. Ray proposed the Tourism Association offered Dinah honorary membership, including free entry onto the website. Members present agreed.

Ray explained the concept of 'Go Bala'. It will be accessible through our website VisitBala. It will be compatible with electronic equipment outside of my comprehension; Smart phones and tablets. It will offer trails around the Bala and Penllyn area. These will be in PDF form and downloadable (see I'm getting the hang of the jargon). Leaflets will also be produced but the PDF stuff comes first.

The trails will be for: walks, cars, canoes and bikes. 12 trails altogether.

There will be a treasure hunt for children which will be through the town.

Mel showed the art work she has produced for the Treasure Hunt. It is brilliant.

Dorothi Evans said that she would be happy to translate the treasure hunt script into Welsh.

Stella Welch asked when 'Go Bala' would be live? Ray say there was no date yet, as there was still a lot of work to be done.

Catherine Rosa said that when she lived in the Lake District they sold a similar Treasure Map for 25p and raised money for local causes.

Other news

Tandems are now available to hire from Sarah and Mark Lind's Leisure Centre office.

Sue Davies from Bala Lake Hotel explained that treatments at Serenity Spa are available for all members of the Tourism Association to use at 'residents' rates. Advanced booking is required. Tourists, staying with members of the Tourism Association, may also book for treatments but they will be charged a slightly higher 'non-residents' rate.

Brochures are available from the Spa or the Hotel.

The Hotel is also open for lunches for both members and/or their guests, again this needs to be booked in advance.

Dorothi Evans was asked when the Town Council were next meeting. It is 4th April.

No date was set for the next meeting.

The meeting closed 20.20hrs