

## **Lismore Public Hall**

Scottish Charity No. SCO21440

Company Limited by Guarantee No. SC343613

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### **Lismore Public Hall Annual General Meeting**

#### **Chairs' Report**

##### **Directors:**

Anna Stewart (AS)

Lorne Macdougall (LM)

Laura Savill (LS)

Flora Macdougall (FM)

##### **Co-opted Directors:**

Jane Hough (JH)

Clare Haworth (CH)

#### **Director's report 01.01.2024 – 31.12.2024**

We commenced the year with the traditional New Year's Dance, which was well-received by all attendees. Despite rising costs for bands leading to reduced profits, the board considers it acceptable as it remains an inclusive community event for all ages.

Lismore Voices resumed their activities and continued using the hall throughout the year, with scheduled breaks for Easter and summer. Badminton sessions also restarted and successfully operated through the summer. The Doctor's Surgery continues to utilize the room, now equipped with a new key box to ensure access during medical emergencies.

Michael Handley organized both whiskey and wine tasting events, which were well-attended. Additionally, Michael hosted another Book Fair, with all proceeds benefiting the hall, for which we extend our gratitude to him and his team.

The hall hosted several birthday parties ranging from a first birthday to an 80th, demonstrating its suitability for larger family gatherings. During the election year, the Hall served as the Lismore Polling Booth as usual.

An EV charger point has been installed and is predominantly used by Lismore Community Transport, though it has also accommodated occasional visitors to the island. Procedures are in place to manage this usage. The electricity supplier was switched to British Gas for better rates when the SSE contract expired.

During the AGM in March, the floor requested the Board to call an EGM regarding the hall's future due to several Directors retiring, leaving the Board below the required number to function according to the constitution. We thank Lorne, Flora, and Clare for stepping up. It was emphasized that the whole island needs to support the Hall at both the Board level and through community usage. A small group assisted the Board in organizing this meeting. The EGM saw strong attendance, with many suggestions on how to progress.

The Board sees its role primarily as administrators, ensuring financial and legal compliance. Given our limited numbers, it was agreed that individuals and community groups would lead social events.

The Summer Dance, held later in the year, was enjoyed by attendees, albeit with lower attendance than previous years. A new Art Group was established, offering session blocks led by community members, welcoming both new and experienced artists and including various crafts like Christmas Crafts.

The Roller Disco has been highly successful and plans to continue monthly. Open to all, it mainly attracts children but welcomes everyone, drawing attendees from both the island and the mainland.

In early December, Rachel Crossan Wright and Kirsty Wright decorated the Hall and organized a Charity Tractor Run in aid of Hope Kitchen. The event was a resounding success, and it is hoped to become an annual tradition. The following day, the Christmas Craft Fair was held, benefiting the Hall, thanks to Rachel and Kirsty who managed the events with volunteer support.

The Parent's Council has also been active, organizing traditional events like Santa's Visit and other activities such as a Curry and Quiz night, with more events planned. We had several one-off hires, some returning for their third year (Argyll Ceilidh Trail).

Despite these activities, the hall remains underutilized, and we welcome new groups. We also seek new Directors, especially those with relevant skills to fill vacant roles. Meetings occur bi-monthly and can be attended in person or via Zoom for convenience.

We would like to thank all those who have supported the Hall, be they as volunteers, through donations and as users.