

# **West Blacket Association Annual General Meeting November 23 2015**

**Present:** Richard Grant (Chair, RG), Nigel Cumming (Treasurer, NC), Kate O'Brien (Membership Secretary, KoB), Mike Hunter (Hon Sec, MJH), Ian Carter, Evelynne Hill, Maggie Stevenson, Carolyn Walker, Rosemary Wake, Bob and Val Lees, Jackie Grant, Philip Bennett, Chris Theobald, Judy Alexander, William Walker, David Hope, Peter Smolka, Colin Stevenson, Nathalie Wallace, Cathie Wright, Lindi and Harvey Young.

**Apologies:** Sandra Carter, Ron Hill, Desmond Rubens, Charles Warlow, George Ross, Sheila Stevens, Jane & John Griffiths, Ian Murray MP

**AGM Minutes 2014:** approved *nem con*

**Chairman's report:** Richard Grant welcomed everyone to the meeting. During his 40 years as a resident he had seen many changes to the mix of commercial and residential properties often in waves. The included the NLS extension, and closure and redevelopment of Peter Walkers builders yard and the Bartholomews map business. The past year or so had demonstrated that were going through a new phase of development and change including the student housing proposals in Causewayside (improved after our representations), proposals to replace the Hendry & MacDonald garage in Duncan St and to redevelop the Upper Gray Street corner site (both still under consideration). We had objected strongly to the proposed development on the Hendry and Macdonald site and although we were very pleased to see proposals to develop the Upper Gray St site which had been semi derelict for a very long time, we had submitted constructive comments on the detail of the proposals. We were also anticipating plans to redevelop the Minto Hotel site. He thanked Ian Carter and Mike Hunter for their work on assessing the relevant planning applications. In addition, there has been a consultation on Parking within our area, including Visitor Permits (which we supported) and shared pay/resident bays (which we opposed). A new recycling system has been rolled out (we weren't consulted but it seems to be working reasonably well). Consultation on cycle routes through our area appears not to have progressed. We have also continued to provide social activities for members: thanks to the continuing efforts of Rosemary Wake, the active and popular History Group visited the Craiglockhart war poets library and a meeting on architectural features of our houses is planned for February (photos to Kate O'Brien please); Three Summer Walks were well attended (thanks to Carolyn Walker and Maggie Stevenson for organising); an Autumn Social was enjoyed by many of our members, with a quiz compiled by Maggie Stevenson and Ron Hill. Kate O'Brien has continued to run the Glut Group/ Information Exchange (information from KoB) in addition to her work as Membership Secretary.

**Treasurer's report:** Nigel Cumming had tabled a full report for the year to 31/10/15. There was a balance of £861.31 and surplus of £91.10. The Chairman thanked him for his careful stewardship of our funds over the past year

## **Election of Office-bearers & Committee:**

Richard Grant wished to stand down as Chair, but was willing to continue as a member of the committee. Maggie Stevenson agreed to stand for election as Chair and was duly elected. There were no other nominations or resignations

Following formal business, Tom Hardwick provided a very entertaining talk on his gardening experiences in developing the Bridgend Allotments and as a longstanding member of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society

The meeting ended about 930pm.