

# West Blacket Association Annual General Meeting November 25 2019

**Present:** Maggie Stevenson (Chair, **MS**), Nigel Cumming (Treasurer, **NC**), Kate O'Brien (Membership Secretary), Mike Hunter (Hon Sec), Ian Carter, Evelynne Hill, Alice Foster, Rosemary Wake, Charles Warlow, Cathie Wright; Tim Barnes, Philip Bennett, Laura Bradley, Sandra Carter, Christine Gough, Jackie Grant, Jane Griffiths, Chrissie Heughan, Ian Knowles, Helen MacDonald, Linda Martin, Lise Morel, Roger Pountain, Jane Rubens, Chrissie Smith, Colin Stevenson, Chris Theobald, Stephen & Clio Tomolillo, Carolyn & William Walker, Lucy Williams.

**Apologies:** Harvey & Lindi Young, Bob and Val Lees.

**AGM Minutes 2018:** these had been circulated by email, posted on our website, and paper copies tabled.  
*Approved nem con.*

## 1. Chair's report:

**MS** welcomed everyone, including our speaker Donna McArdle (Bridgend Farmhouse Development Manager).

Maggie reminded everyone that Iain MacLaren, a longstanding resident of the area and member of the WBA, had died recently. He and his wife, Fiona, kindly hosted various History group meetings in recent years. We had sent our condolences to Fiona.

**Planning:** *Thanks to Ian Carter who monitors planning applications in the WBA area and nearby.*

Unfortunately, none of the sites given planning permission is yet completed.

*Duncan Street/Upper Gray Street site:* The foundations were completed by July 2019, however there was a delay as Building Warrant was not granted until October 2019 for the townhouses and building work has not yet begun. *Hendry & MacDonald:* approval for student accommodation was granted this year but it continues as a garage. Revised drawings are yet to be submitted to the Planning Department. The *Minto Hotel* re-development is very near completion.

Various other applications re- change of use, extensions of guesthouses in Minto Street have been refused or withdrawn. Abcorn guesthouse was granted permission this year to change its use to 15-person HMO accommodation & Strathallan guesthouse was granted planning approval to conversion to 4 flats but neither has gone ahead yet.

**Social Activities:** History Group – Rosemary organised a gathering at Kate & Nigel's on Childhood and a visit to the Edinburgh City Museum Collection Centre which were both well attended and appreciated.

Other social events: A convivial French evening by Lise Morel, who generously hosted a wine and cheese evening and showed the film "L'illusionist" in January started the year; A meal at Voujon in the depths of winter and another in early October at the Salisbury Arms; A summer garden party in South Gray Street – where the sun did shine and there was some delicious baking.

*Thanks to all who helped to organise and contributed to these events.*

**2. Treasurer's report:** **NC** had tabled a full report for the year to 31/10/19. The number of households & members is up a little but subscriptions are down a little. Although there is a small deficit for the year, our finances remain healthy.

**3. Election of Office-bearers & Committee:** all were willing to continue and were duly re-elected.

## 4. AOB:

Jane Rubens, a neighbour whose husband Des died in a climbing accident had brought along some copies of a book about his climbing life for people to look at/buy.

Lucy Williams, a resident of Upper Gray Street, spoke about the setting up of a Climate Change Group locally. A piece of paper was circulated for those interested in joining to provide contact details.