

Chairman's Report for year ended 31st May 2017

Another year has flown by and we have again managed to hold our own, keeping the wolf from the door, but also enjoy ourselves and our events, with some excellent feedback from visitors about the building and how we use the space.

We were pleased to welcome back Scamp Theatre, who this year have used our space to rehearse their production of 'The Scarecrows Wedding', by Julia Donaldson. A lively, noisy and funny adaptation which also brings in a much needed funds and also Balstock, the popular music weekend in Baldock. This year's event was as popular as previous years.

It was pantomime year for our in-house drama group with a sell-out 'Snow White, not quite' production and this was again a resounding success. The production team and cast have built up a really good local following from the community at large.

In February 2017 we again supported Joanna and Anna for the annual Fireside Festival. A mixture of storytelling and delightful entertainment, which was extremely well supported and is now a highlight of the entertainment calendar for Baldock. The Fireside Festival was also able to provide us with more theatre props which we keep in the Thomas Pryor Theatre to use for future events and Bob, with the help of his wife, Liz, spent time on the soundproofing boards in the theatre space, to blend them in with the decor and look a bit tidier.

We were again used as a venue for the annual May Baldock Festival for a variety of events over the festival period, which, with the classic car show subscription donations, raised over £400 for our funds.

Our Art Gallery space has also been very well supported, both by local artists and by our own volunteers, where we organise Private Viewing (PV) evenings. We are delighted with the outcome, as each fresh display gives the room an energised, innovative feel. The Gallery also provides an income, where artwork is sold.

This year we have secured some grants and funding, and would like to thank our Baldock and District Councillors for their support, especially Cllr Muir. We received a grant to help us freshen up our entrance hall, as this does look very 'municipal'.

Apart from some odd maintenance completed in house we have not yet completed further building renovations, as some debate on what we do and when has been discussed. We have to instigate a strategy to review the required changes, identify work that needs completing and get advice regarding completing a funding document.

As always, the remainder of the volunteers need a vote of thanks for their support in keeping the BAHC on track for yet another year.

Thank you all

Alison Gentle
Chairman