

GARFORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
CHAIRMANS REPORT TO THE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

April 2025

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO THIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GARFORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

DUE TO VARIOUS PROBLEMS OF ILL HEALTH { MAINLY MINE} THE AGM WAS NOT HELD IN JANUARY AS USUAL. MOVING IT TO EARLY APRIL WAS CONSIDERED SOME TIME AGO TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LIGHTER NIGHTS AND HOPEFULLY BETTER WEATHER. UNLESS THERE ARE MANY OBJECTIONS, I PROPOSE THAT WE CONTINUE WITH THIS ALTHOUGH MAINTAINING THE FINANCIAL YEAR END AT DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>.

AS THE ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED IN SEPTEMBER 1973 THIS SHOULD BE THE 52<sup>ND</sup> AGM.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT TO YOU MY REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION IN 2024.

FIRST OF ALL, I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAS FULFILLED THEIR MAIN TASK IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CONSTITUTION.

**C. OBJECTS.**

The objects of the association shall be:

- i. to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Garforth and the neighbourhood ( hereinafter called 'the area of benefit') without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organizations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
  
- ii. to establish or to secure the establishment of a Community Centre (hereinafter called 'the centre') and to maintain and manage or to cooperate with any local statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the Association and its constituent bodies in the furtherance of the above objects.

IN SUMMARY THE PRIME FUNCTION OF THE ASSOCIATION IS TO RUN THE HALL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE HALL IS OWNED BY LEEDS CITY COUNCIL AND LEASED TO GCA.

OUR ANNUAL RENT HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE RELIEVED BY A SUBSIDY OR RENTAL SUPPORT GRANT OF 90 % .

BOOKING LEVELS THROUGHOUT 2024 WERE HIGHER THAN BEFORE MAKING THE HALL BUSY AGAIN.

A LOT OF REGULAR BOOKINGS NOW SEEM TO BE FIRM FIXTURES AND HOPEFULLY WILL CONTINUE SO.

THESE INCLUDE :

THE CAMERA CLUB, TAE KWON DO, GULP THE UKULELE PLAYERS, YOGA, PATCHWORK PEOPLE, INDOOR BOWLS, THE ART GROUP, THE TEA DANCE, A TODDLERS PLAYGROUP, A PHOTOGRAPHERS STUDIO, BOWMEN OF LEEDS, AA MEETINGS, DAYSPRING CHURCH, ROSPA, TOWNSWOMENRS GUILD, HOME FARM TRUST, RNLI KARATE, W.I. . WE STILL OPEN ON A FRIDAY MORNING FOR A COFFEE MORNING BUT THE COMPETITION FROM MAIN STREET IS STIFF.

CAROLINE ATHAS DANCE SCHOOL WAS AGAIN A VALUED AND VERY REGULAR USER OF THE HALL.

OTHER EVENTS TO MENTION FROM LAST YEARS PROGRAMME INCLUDE A MAGIC CONVENTION, A CONCERT BY GARFORTH BRASS, TWO PRODUCTIONS BY THE MUSICAL SOCIETY, TWO BOOKINGS FROM ST MARYS YOUTH THEATRE, TWO DANCE COMPETITIONS, A CHORAL CONCERT , A CAKE BAKING FOR THE GARFORTH PEACE PROJECT, A SUCCESSFUL AUTUMN FLOWER AND VEG SHOW AND 16 CHILDRENS PARTIES A LOT FEWER THAN THE YEAR BEFORE.

IF YOU CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO COME INTO THIS BUILDING EITHER WITH OUR REGULAR USERS OR INVOLVED WITH ALL THOSE ACTIVITIES I HAVE JUST LISTED THIS IS A VERY BUSY PLACE WEEK AFTER WEEK AND AN IMPORTANT HUB IN OUR COMMUNITY.

NONE OF THIS WOULD HAPPEN WITHOUT THE HELP OF A NUMBER OF COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS.

EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE ORGANISATIONS THAT HIRE THE HALL HAVE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELP IN SOME WAY. I AM SURE YOU ALL KNOW THEM.

MORE DIRECTLY LINKED TO GCA I WOULD LIKE TO THANK A FEW PEOPLE FOR THEIR TIME AND WORK.

CAROLE JINKS WITH THE UKELELE GROUP GULP

GORDON HALL AND OTHERS WITH THE ART GROUP

MALCOLM TAYLOR AND OTHERS WITH THE WEDNESDAY EVENING BOWLS GROUP

SADLY AT THE END OF LAST YEAR FRANK HAWKINS HAD TO STOP RUNNING THE TUESDAY AFTERNOON TEA DANCE DUE TO INCREASINGLY POOR HEALTH. HE PASSED AWAY SHORTLY AFTERWARDS. FRANK HAD BEEN PART OF GCA FOR A VERY LONG TIME HELPING IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. ONLY FRANK KNEW THE SECRET OF KNITTING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. HE WILL BE VERY MUCH MISSED.

THE DANCERS ARE NOW TAKING TURNS TO PLAY THE MUSIC FOR THE TEA DANCE WHICH SEEMS TO WORK WELL. DIANE HELPS WITH SETTING UP AND ELAINE PENNY AND DOREEN WORK HARD IN THE KITCHEN.

ONCE AGAIN OUR CARETAKER MICK AINSLEY HAS DONE A GREAT JOB OF TAKING CARE OF THE HALL WHICH IS ALWAYS IMMACULATE DESPITE ALL THE AWFUL PEOPLE WHO COME IN AND MAKE IT UNTIDY. HE ALSO COPESES EXTREMELY WELL WITH THE MYSTERIOUS WORKINGS OF LCC PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TEAM AND THEIR MAINTENANCE PEOPLE – NOT AN EASY TASK BELIEVE ME!!

WE DID MISS ONE OR TWO COMMITTEE MEETINGS EARLIER IN THE YEAR DUE TO ILL HEALTH (MINE MAINLY) BUT HOPEFULLY WE CAN GET BACK TO REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

MY THANKS GO TO, CAROL JINKS, MALCOLM TAYLOR, GORDON HALL, JANICE CASTEL AND JOHN SCOTT AN “UNOFFICIAL” MEMBER. ONE MEMBER WE HAVE NOT SEEN FOR A LONG TIME IS KEVIN SCANLAN AND I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE HIM HERE TONIGHT AND LOOK FORWARD TO HIM BEING BACK IN HARNESS.

PARTICULAR THANKS GO TO DOREEN HAWKINS OUR BOOKING SECRETARY AND PENNY CASSIDY OUR TREASURER WHO DO ALL THE REAL HARD WORK THE PAPERWORK AND COLLECTING THE MONEY WITHOUT WHICH WE COULDN'T FUNCTION.

BEFORE WE MOVE ON TO THE TREASURERS REPORT AND THEN ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2025 WOULD THE MEETING PLEASE ACCEPT MY REPORT FOR 2024.

THANK YOU



