

## **Minutes of Larkhall Festival Annual General Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009**

**21 Members were present, 6 sent apologies.**

### **Chair's report (Julia Bowen)**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduces the principles of the festival and the community served by the festival with emphasis placed on the fact that the festival is free and that everyone contributing gave their time and expertise for free.

Chair reads letter received from New Oriel Hall expressing their enjoyment of the festival and support for the festival in 2010.

The full Chair's report is available as a separate document.

Attention was also drawn to up-coming and future fundraisers.

### **Report on Artists' Open Studios and Exhibition and Teen Fiction (Julia on behalf of Angie Goodman) Angie's report is available as a separate document.**

- **Teen fiction**

It is intended to run the teen-fiction again for this year's festival and it is hoped that it will attract more entries this year. Angie would like someone else to take on the organisation of the competition.

- **Open Studios**

Sixteen artists opened their studios. There was some discussion about the choice of a bank holiday weekend among artists opening their studios but it was felt that the advantages of being part of Larkhall Festival outweighed the potential disadvantages.

Sales at the exhibition were disappointing. Better publicity of the exhibition and a preview night on Friday night were suggested as ways to improve this situation.

### **Treasurer's Summary (Alex Robertson)**

The festival broke even, largely thanks to takings on the bar over the festival weekend. The full treasurer's report is available as a separate document.

The treasurer requested suggestions for funding from the floor.

#### **Suggestions were:**

- To re-investigate BANES funding via Keith (not present)
- To investigate the possibility of funding through O<sub>2</sub>

A discussion of how the festival is funded followed with emphasis on the desire to remain self-sufficient as much as possible rather than having to chase for funding repeatedly.

A discussion regarding costs of using New Oriel Hall followed. The Hall will be available for the festival on the same terms as last year – i.e. the Festival will have to cover cleaning costs only.

Audit of accounts: This year's accounts were audited by Jonathan Holt. The treasurer will continue to try to find an accountant who is willing to do the books free of charge.

Geoff Wood suggested the PTA as a possible source for an auditor.

### **Membership (Nick Bird)**

Nick requested that everyone present at the meeting become a member. He also asked for attendees to encourage other people to join.

### **Elections of the new committee – results**

Julia Bowen – Chair

Trish O'Donnel – Deputy Chair

Alex Robertson – Treasurer

Nick Bird – Secretary

Rebecca Hurwitz – Secretary

Jonathan Holt – Committee member

Lesley Bees – Committee member