

**West Blacket Association  
Annual General Meeting  
23 November 2009**

Mike Hunter, Secretary of the Association welcomed everyone to the meeting held in the Minto Hotel. He explained that Brian Charlesworth had left the area during the year, but continued as elected Chairman for the remainder of the year and the Association had completed the year with a reduced committee. Mike Hunter warmly thanked Brian for his contribution and assistance while chairman and committee member during the year.

**Present:** Alice Foster, Mike Hunter, Rosemary Wake, Ron Hill, Evelynne Hill, David Reith, Sheila Reith, Georgina Clayton, June Davidson, Jim Davidson, Peter Smolka, Maggie Stevenson, Colin Stevenson, Helen MacDonald, Judith Sischy, John Griffiths, Jackie Grant, Richard Grant, Peter McGowan, Brian Charlesworth, Sandra Carter, Ian Carter, Cllr Cameron Rose, Kate O'Brien, Nigel Cumming.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Burgess McKenzie and Perry, PC Leadbetter, Sgt Houston, Irene Brown, Dorothy Cloughley, Elma Alexander, Jane Griffiths.

**Minutes:** the minute of the Annual General Meeting of the West Blacket Association held on 24 November 2008 was approved.

**Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's Report was given by Mike Hunter. He outlined the year's activities, including

- planning matters which had not been contentious during the year
- a very successful summer party hosted by Kate O'Brien and Nigel Cumming
- in June, providing the snowy street location in Middleby Street for Capricorn Films with thanks to Jane and John Griffiths for offering "facilities" to the cast and crew. This venture had generated a donation of £400 which had funded the summer party
- the development of the Local History Group
- Neighbourhood Watch, now integrated in to the Association
- maintenance of the website
- producing the newsletter
- representing the Association on the Community Council, the last three roles being undertaken by Mike Hunter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Evelynne Hill reported on the financial statement which was tabled. This showed income for the year of £498.71, including £400 from Capricorn Films to compensate the residents of Middleby Street for inconvenience, and expenditure within the year of £396.68, providing a surplus of £102.03. This raised the funds in hand to a closing balance at 20 November 2009 of £709.21. The membership stood at 35 households (63 individuals). Evelynne was thanked for her care of the Association's finances during the year.

**Election of Committee and Office Bearers:** Rosemary Wake was elected unanimously as Chairman. Richard Grant was elected to join the committee and the following existing members of the committee were re-elected: Mike Hunter (Hon. Secretary), Evelynne Hill (Hon. Treasurer), Jane Griffiths and Kate O'Brien (Neighbourhood Watch), Irene Brown, Ian Carter and Alice Foster.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Kate O'Brien reported that updates from the community police constable were circulated to residents via email, and residents could be added to the circulation list by supplying an email address. Members were pleased to hear that PC John Leadbetter had returned from his secondment and intended to provide regular feedback on local incidents.

**Local History Group:** Rosemary Wake reported on a successful year of the Group which had met twice, firstly to explore the history of part of Minto Street and subsequently that of Middleby Street with the impact of John Bartholomew printers and Mapmakers on the neighbourhood. Meetings were attended by about 15 people and provided a stimulating and sociable way to increase local knowledge. New members were encouraged.

**Local councillors:** Cllr Cameron Rose explained he was attending as representative of the four councillors for the ward who co-operated and shared information but could not all attend all meetings. He expressed his admiration for the work of local amenity associations and the commitment of those involved. He commented on topics raised by local residents, namely car parking on pavements especially on Sundays, traffic calming and cycle routes through the area. The Secretary advised that the Committee would follow up these matters where appropriate. He pointed out that as a result of intervention a parking machine had been relocated but the new position remained contentious due to the narrowness of the pavement.

The meeting closed with thanks to the Committee for their work during the year.

**This draft minute:** provided by Sandra & Ian Carter

Following the meeting **Ben Tindall** gave a presentation on **Energy Saving in a Conservation Area**. He spoke about different models of energy saving, illustrated with examples from his own practice as a conservation architect. His top tips were to use shutters, increase loft insulation, particularly to consider modern insulation materials, and first and foremost to lag hot water tanks and pipes. He explained the constraints limiting the introduction of double-glazed windows in Listed buildings and Conservation Areas, but commended use of internal secondary glazing panels in winter where they could be added discretely and made to fit snugly.

We all need to appreciate and remember that older properties have much to commend them and that expending a modest amount of energy to upgrade and extend their life is a much more economic use of resources than starting afresh. Sometimes also the materials used to create supposedly more economic products may prove in the long run to do more harm than good.