**HAYDAYS NEWS : SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Well aren’t we all amazing!**

We had 108 hardy souls that signed up in February with the hope of keeping Haydays alive and now we have 140 paid up members, had a very successful Midsummer celebration, (wasn’t the food wonderful) and now a full run up to Christmas with 14 classes running.

It has been a team effort and I mean team, not just committee but all HAYDAYS members have worked together. We have 2 new committee members. Roz Paton, has taken on our secretary post with a vengeance and is proving to be a secretarial force to be reckoned with. Patsy Bain has joined us and will have her first committee meeting next Friday. Welcome both and thank you.

 We feel we can now truly say that HAYDAYS is once again a strong and healthy community organisation.

With that in mind and the awful news that the Byre is not likely to open for some time, the committee has been aware that we need a more permanent home for Haydays.

The Cosmos Centre has been wonderful and we are forever grateful to them for taking us in and making us feel so welcome. However it was always a temporary situation and so many compromises have had to be made on both sides to make it work at all.

We have missed out on having lunch times as the Singing has to go in the green room at that time, and many members have had to miss the end or beginning of classes to attend another class as timings had to suit when the rooms were available.

The sports hall is just that..... a sports hall. So it suits our activity classes but other classes are without natural light and heat. The acoustics also make it tricky when there are 2 or more classes in at the same time.

The book club has been unable to meet properly due to timing and lack of space and our members with mobility problems have had difficulty accessing the classes up stairs.

On the positive sides, and there are many,the staff, at the Centre, have been so warm and welcoming and Les has been wonderful in helping all tutors and committee. No member has complained and the committee and tutors have worked hard to make all classes successful and as accessible to as many as possible.

However, we have been offered a new home in the centre of town that we, the committee, feel could be a new home for Haydays.

St Andrews Town Hall is available on Tuesdays for Haydays. We can use all the rooms and the facilities. It has the supper room, complete with kitchen. This means we can run a cafe all day, for members by members, so we can socialise once more before and after classes. We can also look at the possibility of members running a lunchtime club offering homemade lunches to members. We can look at running lunch time talks again, the book club can meet and there should be no overlap of classes.

The Singing with Ella can go back to a morning time that is more convenient for Ella and her singers ( and Graeme). There is plenty of space to offer to all existing classes. All rooms use natural light and the entire Hall is heated to a good standard. In fact they have just installed a new heating system throughout the building.

They have a lift that will mean all members should be able to access all classes.

The cost to Haydays would be the same. However, it is the ability to be flexible with classes and to offer an area for members to gather and meet once again that has helped the committee to recommend that we move to this new home in January 2014.

The Cosmos staff have been party to all discussions and are, as usual, very supportive.

We would like to put this recommendation to members at the EGM along with the Constitution which we require ratified to continue with our application for charitable status. So we hope to see you on **October 1st at 1pm at the EGM in the Cosmos Centre .**

We would not be moving till January but we need to have an agreement soon in order to book the Town Hall and to free the Cosmos to take bookings on Tuesdays.

 I hope you will all see the benefits of this move and I am sure there will be some settling in problems .However we have come through the worst of times working together and if our amazing community spirit continues, then I know we shall not only manage the move, but improve once again the Haydays experience for all.

As I said at the beginning.

**Aren’t we all amazing!**

**Don’t forget our**

 **CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.**

**DECEMBER 3RD.**

**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.**