



# *Honley Village Community Trust*

Registered Charity Number 1033021

Annual General Report  
for the year ending  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2019



**Due to the problem of the restrictions on meetings caused by Coronavirus the AGM of the Honley Village Community Trust has had to be postponed until it is possible to hold a public meeting in the Village Hall. In the meantime the Trust is giving notice of the Annual Report in respect of the year 2019.**

## **Secretary's Report for 2019**

During the year January to December 2019 the Management Committee held 11 quorate meetings. This met the requirement under Section 6 of the Trust Constitution that there should be no fewer than 8 meetings.

The Trust has a consistent format to its committee meetings with standard agenda items including a report from the Treasurer on our financial position. The Committee monitors its actions through an Action Schedule which is updated at each meeting. It is through regular monitoring the Trust has been able to steer an effective and efficient course to ensure value for money.

The Trust has, and is continuing, to face much work in considering its Constitution, Charity Status and the Asset Transfer.

In addition to the management committee meetings other meetings have been held by the various sub-committees, as required, and these, together with the help of many volunteers, have been essential to the running of the Trust. Reports from the sub-committees provide information on the range of activities undertaken by the Trust.

The Trust has continued to lead and contribute to initiatives and activities in the village. We support the work of 'Friends of Honley' in improving the appearance of the village. The Trust is an associate member of the [Honley Business Association](#) and supports the Christmas Market by holding a Craft Fair in the Village Hall, with 2019 being another successful year. For this we thank Debbie Flanagan for organising this event on behalf of the Trust. The success of the Honley Remembers weekend led by Carol Roberts of the Trust, with the help of so many volunteers, was amazing. As part of the weekend the Trust was presented with "The Brick," as the Queen's Award for voluntary service is known, which had been granted to the Trust in 2017. In 2019 the Trust was also presented with a Community Champions Award by HVPC. Both awards, among others, are on display in the wall cabinet in the Village Hall. An evening was held in November to launch the [Honley Remembers webpage](#), watch a film of the weekend and present a donation to the British Legion. A group of volunteers undertook the task of tidying and clearing the graveyard and this is ongoing. Members of the Trust also aided with the collection of data for 'Ask Honley.' Hopefully the information gathered from all sections and ages of the community will go towards improving the village to the benefit of all. One outcome, [the HD9 Ring and Ride scheme](#), should help to give residents easier access to appointments and also create interesting social outings. The Trust joins with other volunteering groups in the village to work together to improve all aspects of our Community. *Margaret Rayner*

## Village Hall Report for 2019



At the moment the Village Hall is still owned by Kirklees Council and is rented by the Trust on a full repairing lease which means we pay rent to them but we are responsible for all maintenance costs including music licences, water, insurances, heating; in fact - everything. We are in the final stages of seeking asset release from Kirklees to take over ownership of the building and some of the land around it.

Because we have the hall on a repairing lease it is up to the Village Trust to keep up the maintenance to a high standard. During 2019 we had quite a lot of expensive work to do. We needed to replace the flooring on the café area because the sub floor had come up due to damp. We also had to replace all the chairs which had deteriorated over the years through general use. The toilets were getting shabby and the pipework was subject to leaks, so the area was upgraded with low maintenance wall panelling being fitted and the pipes replaced. On the advice of Kirklees health and safety department we installed a hand washing basin in the kitchen.

The outside of the hall was not forgotten and in Spring the [Friends of Honley](#) Group replanted the raised bed at the front of the hall and also the corner bed at the side. Flower baskets were put up by Village Trust committee members Peter and Jo Bonds and gave a lovely display all summer and the grass around the hall was kept in check throughout the growing season by volunteer grass cutters. The Village Trust is an associate member of the Honley Business Association and the Village Hall was included in the display of flags which their member volunteers put up throughout the village on various occasions.

All the above repairs and maintenance cost money so it is fortunate that the hall is fully booked throughout the week and most evenings. The exception is Saturdays when the hall is kept clear of regular bookings to allow its use for one-off events such as parties, coffee mornings and of course the Village Trust's annual Art and Craft Christmas Fair. This popular event organized, as usual, by Debbie Flanagan, again broke all records in the number of people attending and money raised for the Trust. The Hall was also used for several events as part of the [Peace celebrations project](#) organised by Trust committee member Carol Roberts.

Regular hirers are: Lynn Allen who runs Ability Options offering day care for people with learning difficulties and special needs. Lynn uses the hall 09.30 to 3pm 5 days a week. She took over the 5th weekday slot which up until September was booked by Denby Dale Centre, a charity which offers day care for people in the early to mid-stages of dementia. The DDC did not renew its booking because of lack of uptake on their service.

The evening groups of Slimming World on Monday and Weight Watchers on Thursday evenings continue to thrive, as does the Pilates Class on Wednesday evenings. Sadly, the only youth group meeting at the Hall now is The Rainbows, part of the Girl Guiding Organisation, who meet on Tuesday evenings during school term times.

Another very popular evening booking is a French Dance Group called Le Vendredi Danse. who meet at the hall on the 2nd Friday of the month and who book a separate evening for rehearsal. Saturday is popular for children's birthday parties averaging two bookings a month and Elim Church continues to hire the Hall for two services on Sunday.

Several weekend events took place here in 2019 including charity fund raisers, and Kirklees Council hired the hall to use as a polling station for local and national elections.

The Boules pitch at the side of the Hall is very well used, and in July the Holmfirth U3A French language group together with Petanque players held a Bastille day BBQ and competition.

So to sum up the Village Hall is once again running at near capacity and as well as proving an income for the Trust in offering a valuable venue for Village Community Activities.

*Marcia Murray*

## Land Report for 2019

I took over responsibility for the management of the Trust owned land at Magdale in April 2019 from Neil Littlewood and I would like to pay credit to his excellent work over a number of years. Our management of the land would not be possible without the dedicated work of volunteers from the area. We have a small core group of volunteers but I would like to increase our numbers. If anyone reading this report is interested in helping please contact me on 07717766071. The volunteer group has met on the second Sunday of every month during 2019 unless the weather prevented the work taking place, which was particularly the case during the Autumn.



During the year we have established a good working relationship with [River Holme Connections](#). We support their work in controlling Japanese Knotweed and have been grateful for their support in sowing some wildflower seed on the land, and providing bird and bat boxes.

During 2019 a major impact on the land has been the work undertaken by Northern Powergrid to replace the power lines and posts that cross Magdale. This was essential work to upgrade the lines and prevent power outages in the area. The contractors liaised regularly with us about this work. Unfortunately this did lead to a loss of trees under the power lines and some churning up of the grass areas. However, we have used the opportunity to sow wildflower seeds on the bare earth areas created by the machinery and we are making wildlife habitats from the branches of the felled trees. This work has been supported by Northern Powergrid through funding made available to the Trust.



At the beginning of the year we commissioned work, undertaken by Charlie Duncan, to repair two sluice gates near the weir and construct a wooden fence between the goit and entrance footpath to Magdale Fields. Work has also started on the repair of the silt trap area where water enters Magdale Dam. It is the intention to dredge this area of the Dam of the sludge that has accumulated, before doing the same at the other end of the dam.

In addition to the above work the volunteers have also continued with the usual activities that take place during the year. These include: the maintenance of paths that go through the land by cutting back undergrowth and clearing fallen leaves; clearance work around the small trees planted on Magdale Bank; uprooting Himalayan Balsam to limit its spread along the goits and river; assistance with the clearance work taking place at the graveyard.

During 2020 we will plant some trees to replace the ones cut down, create conditions for the wildflowers to thrive and seek to undertake other work that will support a biodiverse environment. This will of course be in addition to our traditional tasks.

*Steve Hemming*

## **55s Activities Group Report for 2019**

The over 55s group continues to be very popular, meeting each Wednesday during the winter months, starting on the first Wednesday in October. Everyone is most welcome to turn up even though the group is near its maximum of 40 members. The year finished on 1st April 2020 but 32 members missed their annual lunch trip to Meltham Golf Club on 8th April, due to Covid19. *Pat Barr*

## **Youth Club Report for 2019**

The Honley Youth club has been running now for nearly 2 years and continues to be well attended. Our age range is now 11 years to 17 years (high school age) which is proving very popular. Funding from the Honley Village Community Trust and Holme Valley Parish Council has allowed us to buy a stock of quality craft equipment and pay for activities such as rock painting, fabric painting, decorating, model car racing and model aeroplane painting, table tennis, pool, badminton and various games as well as a one off hire of an inflatable assault course which was great fun.

We have also managed to buy a big screen TV and have been donated a Wii and several fitness and sporting games which the teens have great fun competing with the volunteers and each other. Funding has allowed us to take the young people out on various trips especially to Lazer Zone. Other planned trips will include further monthly trips for example Parkour, climbing wall, cinema and hopefully Roller Disco. We are in desperate need of a youth worker to work 3 or 4 hours a week to coordinate the youth club as at present it is run by a few volunteers, we also need more volunteers. We sadly had to close from March due to the Corona Virus, but will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

*Margaret Wadsworth*

## **Web Site Report**

As HBA is funding an update to the Honley Village website ([Honley.Info](http://Honley.Info)) Honley Village Community Trust is also looking to make improvements.

Initially much of the content for the HVCT website will remain the same but with a slightly fresher/up to date layout, which will need approval by the Committee. It is expected that going forward, the website will be easier to maintain and will ensure that it will be easier to use by the Community. This will tie in with the new Honley.Info website as mentioned above.

It is expected that the website will be implemented until summer 2020. within the same timescale as the new village website. *Glenn Kirkby*

In taking over the editorship of the Honley Flyer in December 2018, I offered “to get the next issue out”. A Year Later and I am still here, - so I must be doing something right, - or I am very cheap! I have now produced the fifth edition of my tenure as editor, which was delivered to people’s homes the last week in February.

As I do not profess to be a journalist, as John the former editor was, I am very grateful for all the people of Honley who have contributed copy for the issues over the past year. I was very apprehensive about not having sufficient copy to fill each issue, but this has not been the problem. I am receiving more copy than I have space for, not that I am complaining about that.

I would have liked to introduce a small regular feature entitled, “Did you know”, or “A potted history of,” but alas space has not permitted.

There have been four copies during 2019, one of them in colour. Producing the flyer in colour does look good and I think that people generally prefer it, the photographs are easier to see but there is a price for this. It costs almost double the black and white copy price. I have received valuable help from Andrew Toothill and his staff at “[Enterprise Print](#)”, and I thank them for that.

The advertising and sponsorship are in the capable hands of Trust committee member Jo Bonds, to whom I am equally grateful for the efficient way she performs the task. Of course, the issues would never be distributed without Daphne Smith and her team of over 60 volunteer distributors. And, yet again, my thanks go out to Daphne and the team for the arduous tasks they undertake over the year.

My thanks are also extended to the small businesses and individuals who advertise in and sponsor the flyer, without whom the flyer would not exist.

I hope that the flyer is continuing to fulfil its original objectives, to be readable informative and entertaining,

***Vivian Rayner***

## **Proposal to change the structure and constitution of HVCT - Key Points to be presented to AGM 2020**

HVCT was established in 1993 and its constitution adopted on 13 January 1994. HVCT is registered with the [Charity Commission](#) as an Unincorporated Charitable Association. The Charities Act 2006 enacted the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as a new legal form of incorporation for charities. It finally became available to charities in March 2013.

Currently, as an Unincorporated Charitable Association HVCT Trustees and members (i.e. any eligible person who pays a subscription) are liable if the charity becomes insolvent. All property (i.e. Magdale Fields) and leases (i.e. Village hall) are held in the name of four 'Custodial Trustees', who are independent of the management Committee and have no input into the running of the Trust except in relation to any changes to property and lease arrangements.

The main benefits of the CIO is that the charity has [legal personality](#). This means that HVCT has the ability to enter contracts, sue and be sued, and to hold property in its own name - rather than in the name of its trustees. This also means that the Trustees and its members have limited liability (their liability in the event the charity becomes insolvent is limited or nil).

The HVCT Management Committee is proposing that HVCT becomes registered as a CIO, thus changing its charity status. This requires the approval of members at an AGM and the approval of a revised constitution. The Charity Commission provide a model constitution for a CIO and the proposed constitution for HVCT is based on this model. ***Steve Hemming***