



# Honley Village Community Trust Annual Report 2017

Presented to the Annual General Meeting  
17 April 2018

## HVCT Secretary's Review

During the year January to December 2017 the Management Committee held 12 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 this regular monitoring that the Trust has been able to steer an effective and efficient course to ensure value for money.

In June 2017 it was announced that the Trust had been awarded the Queen's Award for voluntary service, the highest award given to volunteer groups in the UK. Ian Blagborough, our Chair, and Marcia Murray, a long standing committee member attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace to represent the Trust in receiving this award. They appreciated that this was an award for all of the community who supported the Trust in its work to make Honley a better place to live. It was therefore decided to hold our own garden party which took place on Magdale Fields on 23 July and was a great success.

During the course of 2017 we also applied for and were assessed for the Duke of York Award. We have recently heard that we have been successful and an award ceremony in Sheffield will be attended by members of the committee on 24 April.

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 activity undertaken by the Trust.

The Trust has continued to lead and contribute to initiatives and activities in the village. We supported the Honley Feast celebrations in September and the work of 'Friends of Honley' in improving the appearance of the village. This included the erection of hanging baskets at the Village Hall and the erection of Christmas trees and the flags for St. - George's Day and Yorkshire Day. The Trust is an associate member of the Honley Business Association and supports the Christmas Market by holding a Christmas Fair in the Village Hall, with 2017 being our most successful yet. The Trust is also represented on the Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and is a member of Natural Kirklees.

The Trust is taking the lead in the Honley Remembers Project which is bringing together a number of organisations to commemorate Honley people involved in the forces and as civilians in wartime. The project is working towards a weekend of events on the weekend of 19/20/21 July 2019 to remember 100 years since Peace Day on 19 July 1919. This will include the unveiling of two information boards with a bench between them. Excellent progress is being made on the project with many organisations contributing.

In April 2017 the Trust received £4000 from the Co-op Community Fund after being nominated by the people of Honley as their chosen charity. Members of the local Co-op are able to select one of three local charities that receive 1% of what is spent on own brand goods and services, and receipts from the sale of bags. The Trust has been fortunate to

be selected for two years running to receive a grant under this scheme. In 2017 the grant was passed on to Friends of Honley to help fund their activities.

Honley Village Community Trust formally terminated the management agreement with Holme Valley Piscatorial Association (HVPA) for fishing rights on Magdale Dam, with effect from 31 May 2017. This followed extensive discussions regarding breaches of the agreement and a failure to reach agreement on a revised arrangement.

After this meeting all of the relevant documents will be placed on the Trust website.

*Steve Hemming*

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## **HVCT Village Hall Committee Report**

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 still in the process of seeking asset release from Kirklees to take over ownership of the building.

The Hall is run by a sub-committee of Marcia Murray and Margaret Wadsworth, together with Dennis Roberts who oversees maintenance.

2017 started on a low note at the Village Hall when the Kirklees Disability Group who hired the hall every weekday and were the main income generator, pulled out due to funding cuts. This resulted in a significant loss of income for the Trust.

They were quickly followed by the Kirklees Youth group which was disbanded for the same reason, despite being subsidised by the Trust. Apparently Kirklees couldn't afford staff wages. After these two groups moved out the Hall was left mainly unused during the daytime for the last 9 months of 2017.

However Elim Church continues to hire the Hall for two services on Sunday. The evening groups of Slimming World on Monday and Weightwatchers on Thursday evenings continue to thrive as does the Pilates Class on Wednesday evenings. All of which goes a long way towards paying the bills! Also Saturday is popular for children's birthday parties averaging two bookings a month. Sadly the only youth group meeting at the Hall now is The Rainbows for girls which meet on Tuesday evenings.

During a short period last year we had some problems with a few young people disrupting the evening groups and on a couple of occasions stealing property from and doing damage to the Hall. Fortunately the culprits were identified from footage on the hall's CCTV cameras and the matter was reported to the police. I'm happy to say that since then we've had no more incidents.

Several Weekend events took place here in 2017 including charity fund raisers, also

Kirklees Council which hires 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, in fact it is so well used that the surface needed renewing and the cost of doing this was met by the Honley Boules Group who play there two or three times a week. The group also took up shovels and re-laid the chippings themselves.

In December 2017 the Trust's 8th Christmas Craft Fair was held at the Village Hall to coincide with the Street Market and Christmas Tree Festival. The event was attended by over 400 people and raised a record amount for the funds. The Trust would like to thank Debbie Flanagan for again organising this event.

2017 may have started on low but it ended on a high. We successfully applied for a grant from One Community which enabled us to finally replace the crotchety old central heating boiler with a new one.

Also we had three new regular bookings confirmed to start at the beginning of 2018. First an activity group for people with learning difficulties and additional needs. This is a privately run organisation called Ability Options who now hire the hall 4 days a week. They have more or less taken over where the Kirklees group left off and seem to be taking the overspill as it were from Kirklees as well as private referrals.

The second regular booking is from a Denby Dale Charity which runs several day care groups throughout the valley for people who suffer from mild to moderate dementia. They hire the hall on Wednesdays, have places available and are taking private referrals.

The third new hirer booked one evening a month to start in January this year is the LVD or Le Vendredi Danse. This is an evening of French dance & music similar to a Ceilidh and is already proving very popular.

So with these three new bookings the Village Hall is once again practically running at capacity.

*Marcia Murray*

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## HVCT Land Committee Report

The work of managing the land owned by the Trust would not be possible without the dedicated work of volunteers from the area. The group have met on the second Sunday of every month during the year unless the weather prevented the work taking place. Numbers attending have ranged from a handful to a dozen volunteers. Regrettably the Chapel was broken into again and equipment stolen although this was covered by our insurance. Access to the equipment has been reinforced. Attempts to secure the underground room in the chapel have been vandalised and further work on this matter is to be undertaken. We are developing links with Natural Kirklees, an organisation bringing together volunteer groups undertaking environmental work in Kirklees. We made a donation to River 2015, who are working to treat Japanese Knotweed along the Holme Valley.

The main activities during the course of the year have been:

1. The clearance of detritus at the entry to the goit feeding Magdale Dam from Mag-Brook.
2. The replacement of the sluice gate at the entry to the goit feeding Magdale Dam from MagBrook, enabling better control of the water flow particularly in times of flood.
3. The planting of trees in the garden area adjacent Whitby Bridge, made possible by a grant.
4. The paths through the land have been maintained and cleared of leaves and other debris when necessary.
5. Essential tree surgery to diseased and fallen trees and those obstructing access.
6. Clearance work around the saplings planted on Magdale Bank.
7. During the summer we have continued to uproot Himalayan Balsam to limit its spread along the goits and river. This will be an ongoing task every year.
8. The commencement of hedge laying near the entrance to Magdale Fields from Coach Lane

*Neil Littlewood*

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## **Honley Flyer Report**

What is the Honley Flyer for?

- Firstly- It is the Trust's organ of information on matters about the Trust. It should contain items about past work of the Trust and forthcoming Trust events.
- Secondly- It may contain news items and notices about Honley village events, past and forthcoming.
- Thirdly- It may contain features about the Trust and / or the village, or anything that the editor thinks fit to print- so please send in your contribution. I guarantee I will read it!

There are four issues a year; in March, June, September and December. 3,150 copies are printed, and a band of 40 volunteers delivers the Flyer to every household and business in Honley Parish. The allocation and delivery of these copies to the distributors is handled by Daphne Smith, who is also a volunteer distributor herself. Our volunteers are wonderful. Even though they traditionally say "What, is it that time already?" when they get their allocation, they happily deliver them, rain or shine.

The village is growing and if we get a lot more houses we will need more distributors. So we're always on the look out for new or stand-by deliverers - *see Daphne afterwards.*

We are lucky to have Jo Bonds (otherwise Vintage Vera) as our Advertisement Manager. She organises the advertising which pays for the printing of the Flyer. It now looks and

feels good and that's down to the excellent print job done by Enterprise Print, Long Lane. So, thanks to them and many thanks to all our advertisers and sponsors.

Of course any publication is only as good as the contributions it gets, so please give us the news, pictures, and what's on's! If you'd like to assist in the Honley Flyer production please contact the editor (that's me). You'll find contact details on the back page of every Flyer.

*John Murray*

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## **Over 55s Activities Group Report**

We have had another successful year, although the weather has caused us to close twice.

Membership hasn't been as high as last year, and we could certainly do with more male members, maybe we will push this in September.

We are having our end of season meal at Meltham Golf club on Wednesday April 4th.

*Pat Barr*

*Secretary, Honley Over 55s group*

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## **Friends of Honley (FoH)**

2017 saw FoH grow from strength, thanks to the continued support of Honley residents and businesses alike, and financial support from both The Co-Op, Holmfirth "Lions, One Community and residents' donations.

The plan was to build on the foundations laid in 2015/16, so that FoH could maximise the beauty of Honley village, for the benefit of business and residents alike.

The plan comprised the following key elements:

### **∞ Litter Management:**

- FoH volunteers gathered on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, come rain, snow or shine, covering both the main shopping areas and their tributaries. With an average of 18 people supporting each month, the team were able to meet their 2017 goal of both weeding the primary shopping routes and maintaining a litter free Honley.
- The team collected refuse, large and small, from cigarette butts to washing machine drums and broken glass, and in Q4 extended their scope (as per plan) to the primary routes into Honley of Huddersfield Road (specifi-

cally the area at the rear of Domino's Pizza) and Woodhead Road, (to the side of Jacobs Well).

- An average of 15 bags of litter per month have been removed. Specific mention to all the volunteers who have supported and specifically to Carol and Peter Makepeace and Jared Croft, who are seen with lances aloft, day or night!
- **Maximise Honley's seasonal colour**
  - Honley businesses displayed 32 baskets of colour from June to September, and it would be fair to say that Honley packed a punch greater than that of any of our neighbours, attracting increased footfall to our village.
  - Residents of Honley Fold, Friends of Honley Library and Honley Civic Society provided excellent support in planting and managing horticultural colour at our historic well, Honley library and the flower bed adjacent to our car park respectively.
  - We continued to plant and manage a further 8 planters throughout the village, and provided a wrap-around floral basket to enhance Honley Well
  - At People's Park, we added 6 new indigenous trees at its Westgate entrance, and transplanted evergreen and herbaceous plants to its Circular bed. We also liaised with Kirklees Parks to ensure that our 2 front beds received summer bedding to add a further pop of colour, and we weeded the Park's flower beds as required
  - In Magdale Fields, we planted 3 trees and indigenous planting
  - We continued to trim areas of heavy growth, namely Hair & Beauty at Moorbottom and many of the tributary streets to keep them passable and avoid litter build up in overgrown vegetation
  - We achieved our plan of extending our scope to include 3 new primary routes into Honley:
    - Firstly, FoH planted and preened at the Station/New Mill Rd junction, providing a pop of colour in the form of Flower Towers, barrier planters and tyres, all planted and managed by FoH for both the Tour de Yorkshire but also throughout the seasons
    - Secondly Riverside Works where HB Bearings, Barrett's and Strands hairdressing provided a tunnel of colour on entry into the village in the form of hanging baskets and wooden planters aplenty.
    - And thirdly Huddersfield Road, with the addition of Sleep Matters, providing a foray of basket colour, this being the first area of impact en route into our village
  - Thanks to all the support from businesses, each of the above and all our volunteers, who together enhanced the look and feel of Honley
- **Improve Honley Station**
  - In partnership with both Pennistone Rail and Northern Rail, FoH worked to enhance one of our key transport gateways into the village. Whilst plans are already in consideration to improve Honley station on a grander scale, FoH wanted to collaborate on provision of an interim aesthetic improvement to the station for the benefit of resident and visitors alike
  - A watercolour of Honley was commissioned from Tom Gamble, renowned Member of the Royal Watercolour Society, which was inspired by photographs by local photographer, Sandie Nicholson
  - The artwork was then reworked by Russell Reynolds of Clevercoat, Honley, from an A4 size portrait to a large format bespoke output so that it aligned

to the exact dimensions of Honley Station, whilst also being treated with an invaluable anti-vandal coating.

- **Honley Graveyard**

- In Q3 2017, the conscience of FoH was prompted - given that the village was experiencing some visible improvement, how could we engage in “Hon-ley Remembers” in 2019, with a Graveyard that was unkempt and clearly unloved? The answer was that we couldn’t
- The priority for improvement was initially Armistice Day, and a team of volunteers set about painting the graveyard gates and fences and clearing vegetation.
- But it didn’t stop there, - a small but dedicated group of volunteers, Russ Sheard, Karen Holden, Pam & John Fanchamps, Jan & Peter Swallow, alongside Martin Heap, and Steve Hine, (and others!) extended their work, clearing brambles and ivy that was, in places some 5 ft. high. Many tons of vegetative and other rubbish were removed with care and precision, being either burnt or taken off site by Russ
- The team have succeeded in exposing lost and sunken graves, alongside Spring colour, none of which has been seen for many, many years.
- Work was lead and co-ordinated by Carol Roberts, and alongside the above volunteers, was supported by June McLean and Peter Marshall.
- Research continued into Honley remembers continued in parallel and was supported by both Huddersfield University and Honley High School
- Thanks to the dedication of a few, the graveyard is now accessible and we can start to rest easy that Honley is as proud of its past, as it is of its present, and can so root itself in a strong position for the future

- **Financial**

- Thanks to grants from Holme Valley Rotary Club, One Community and residents of the Co-Op Graveyard bucket appeal, FoH has been able to support Honley effectively in 2017, whilst sustaining a reasonably healthy financial position
- Our plans for 2018 see development of new partnerships, and continued support from existing ones, particularly Honley businesses and residents, whom we thank in equal measure.