



Honley Village Community Trust

Annual Report

2014

Presented to the Annual General Meeting
14 April 2015

HVCT Secretary's Review of 2014

I took over the as Secretary to HVCT at the last AGM in April 2014. The year therefore started with my predecessor Carol Roberts in this role and I would like to pay tribute to her excellent work as the Secretary over 3 years. Carol continues to be a member of the Committee and make a significant contribution to the work of the Trust. I thank her for leaving the records in such good order!

During the year January to December 2014 the Management Committee held 10 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 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.

I would like to draw attention to some of the significant events in which the Trust has been involved during 2014:

- 1. 21st Anniversary:** The planning and activity for the celebrations to recognise that the Trust has been in existence for 21 years. The Constitution of Honley Village Community Trust was adopted at a public meeting on 13 January 1994. Towards the end of 2014 grants were given to Honley Infant School and Honley Junior School for specific initiatives and an event is planned for March 2015.
- 2. The Tour De France:** The Tour De France created much excitement in the village and as well as the Honley Village Community Trust name and logo appearing on a giant jersey shown on the Holme Moss climb activities took place in the Village Hall mentioned in the subcommittee's report.
- 3. Magdale Dam Banking:** The clearance of part of the banking of saplings and undergrowth followed by the planting of fruit and other native trees in this area. In a short time this should enhance the appearance of this area.
- 4. 1914-18 War Commemoration:** The Trust is contributing to the village commemoration of the 1914-18 War. Planning has commenced to erect a board to commemorate the contribution of village residents in the war.

After this meeting all of the relevant documents will be placed in the Honley Library.

Steve Hemming

HVCT Village Hall Committee Report for 2014

The village hall is run by a sub-committee of Marcia Murray and Margaret Wadsworth, together with Dennis Roberts, who as well as the onerous job of Treasurer took on the job of overseeing maintenance with the help of on-call handyman Kevin Moore. Roy Davey who stood down after many years on the Trust committee still brings his trusty old Ferguson Tractor down to cut the grass and with the help of Kevin they keep the grass area surrounding the hall looking neat and tidy. Another volunteer Mrs Wendy Mullany has taken on the task of maintaining the flower bed next to the Petanque pitch which lends a splash of colour to the area.

The Village Trust employs 2 part time cleaners for the Hall; Mrs Shirley Hinchliffe Monday to Friday, and Warida Bahiti at weekends. They both do an excellent job.

The Hall is continuing to be a valuable resource for the village as well as a source of income for the Village Trust. Regular daytime users include Kirklees disability services every weekday and Elim Church who hold 2 meetings here on Sunday morning and afternoon.

Regular evening users now include the Slimming World organisation who started in 2014 to hold two meetings in the hall every Monday. The Rainbows junior guides continue to meet here on Tuesdays. Sadly Mrs Mavis Knutton a regular helper with the Rainbows died last year. Her family and friends dedicated a bench in her name to be placed outside the hall overlooking the boules pitch and we would like to thank them again for that.

We are glad to be able to report that the youth activity group for 8 to 12 year olds (which is subsidised by the Village Trust) continues at the Hall on Wednesday evenings and is proving extremely popular with lots of youngsters turning up each week. Also on Wednesdays, following the Youth Group, there is Pilates Classes organised by qualified physiotherapist Chris Liversidge. This has proved so popular that Chris has extended his booking time this year so he can run two classes instead of one. The Weight watchers Organisation meets here every Thursday evening.

Saturday afternoon is popular for children's birthday parties averaging two bookings a month.

Several day events took place here in 2014 including charity fund raisers, and Kirklees Council which hires the hall to use as a polling station for local and national elections. Also in 2014 we had a family fun day, the Honley 10 Kilometre trail run organised by a local man, and an Easter Party organised by a local tenants and residents association.

The Village Trust held two events at the Hall in 2014, the first was a whole day of activities as part of the Tour de France Celebrations. It kicked off with a Boules Tournament incorporating a cheese and wine drop in followed by a strawberry cream tea later in the day. We purchased a big screen for the hall where people could pop in to watch the cycle race as it passed through the Yorkshire Dales and in the evening we were able to show a topical animated comedy film to round the day off.

Following the success of this film evening and in order to make use of the new screen we held another Film night here in the hall at Christmas showing the old favourite "It's a Wonderful Life" In order to create a bit of an atmosphere rather than setting them up in rows,

seats were arranged around bistro tables and sherry and mince pies were included in the ticket price. That evening was the birth of Honley Café Film Club. The Trust agreed to underwrite the venture for 6 months after which if the club wasn't paying for itself then the idea would fold. So watch this space!

The second event was the Trust's 5th Christmas Craft Fair in December 2014 which was attended by over 400 people and which was held to coincide with the Street Market and Christmas Tree Festival. This event raised over £600 for the Trust funds and one of our committee members got a matched grant from her employers.

The Petanque terrain or boules pitch is well used and even through winter people have been turning up to play.

Marcia Murray

On behalf of VH sub-committee, Margaret Wadsworth and Dennis Roberts.

HVCT Land Committee Report for 2014

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 planned work taking place. Numbers attending have ranged from a handful of people to 12 volunteers and we were joined by students from Leeds University conservation group in November.

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

1. Clearance work on Magdale banking between the dam and the road. This involved the clearance of some self planted trees, numerous saplings and undergrowth. The work was started towards the end of 2013, and subsequently completed later in 2014 after consultation with local residents and discussion with the Holme Valley Piscatorial Society. The cleared area has now been planted with fruit and other native trees.
2. 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.
3. The paths through the land have been maintained and cleared of leaves and other debris.
4. The undergrowth adjacent to work the wall half way up Magdale Fields has been cleared to prevent its spread across the grassland area.
5. Preparation work has been undertaken on a small bridge to cross the stepping stones on the path adjacent to the goit that flows into the dam. This is to provide improved access for the elderly and disabled and will be completed during 2015.
6. We have continued to erect bird boxes in locations around the woodland areas and will continue this work into 2015.

Neil Littlewood

HVCT: Youth Sub Group Report for 2014

A Brief update on the activities we, as a trust provide to the youth of Honley

- High School: We held a competition at the High School, they were asked to design a theme for the Chapel Windows. The winners received a voucher
- Infant and Junior Schools: Presented these schools with sports equipment. We also supported them with projects undertaken, we donated 250 to each. Infants used theirs to buy bug nets/collection jars etc for use in field trips to Magdale. Juniors have created a willow structure (think igloo type thing) in the shape of a butterfly (Trust logo) which will be used as an outdoor classroom for quiet time and personal development classes.
- Rainbows: they use the hall every week for their meetings
- Scouts: Work with them in maintaining the area and support them with grants and projects to help keep Honley clean and tidy
- We work in conjunction with Kirklees Youth Groups
- Youth club: they use the Village Hall Wednesday evenings and it is run by the Youth Worker from Kirklees

Margaret Wadsworth

Over 55s Activities Group Report for 2014

My name is Pat Barr I am the secretary of the over 55s activities group

During last winter we had a regular attendance of over 30 people

Once again I am pleased to report that we have attracted several younger members this year, and we have now five regular gentlemen members

We enjoy a number of different activities; however, scrabble and rummicub remain firm favourites along with dominoes and pool. Bowling, Curling, and Pool seem to attract the more energetic members. This year, thanks to the village trust, we have bought a new table tennis table, which is proving to be a firm favourite.

We have tea and biscuits around 3 pm at which time the raffle is drawn; all this for £1.

On the last Wednesday in April we held our annual end of season dinner at Brockholes Bowling Club. 29 members enjoyed a lovely lunch followed by a game of crazy whist.

We have now closed for the summer and will reopen on the first Wednesday in October 2015 at 1.30pm. We would very much like any member of the Village Trust Committee to join us for tea and biscuits any Wednesday next season.

Pat Barr

Secretary, Honley Over 55s group

Honley Flyer Report for 2014

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 being built we will need more distributors. So we're usually 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, just, for the printing of the Flyer. Actually, in this financial year the Flyer made a loss due to having the 21st Anniversary issue printed in colour. Colour or black & white, it now looks and feels a lot better, 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

Report on the Trust Website www.honleyvillagetrust.org.uk

This report is more or less the same as last year's website report except the figures may have changed a bit. Here are a few statistics *

- In 2014, 38 million adults (76% of the population) in Great Britain accessed the Internet every day, 21 million more than in 2006
- Access to the Internet using a mobile phone more than doubled between 2010 and 2014, from 24% to 58%.
- In Great Britain, 22 million households (84%) had Internet access in 2014, up from 57% in 2006.

The Trust has had an online presence for several years and our aim is to provide information about the Trust and its activities for the information of our members. But we do more than that!

Apart from the usual information and the history of the Trust, other pages on the web site include:

- Magdale Fields and Magdale Dam pages– information about these areas of Trust land with information sheets and a worksheet for children about butterflies which inhabit the areas and which are available to print out. There is also a list with pictures of beetles found on the fields compiled by Mr Robert Angus. A new addition is a collage of birds seen (and heard) on Magdale Fields compiled by local “birder” Mr Reg Senior
- A Village Hall Page where you can check the availability of the hall with the on-line diary, and download the booking form.
- We have a web album which shows pictures of Trust events and Trust volunteers at work.
- Directories pages for business and community information. You can even check train and buses timetables into and from Honley. Businesses must be based in Honley and inclusion on these directories is free, but inclusion often leads to businesses taking out a paid advert in the Flyer!
- The colour version of the Honley Flyer is uploaded onto the website as soon as it comes out and is read by 78% of the people who visit the website.

Here's a few more statistics:- On average the Honley Village Trust website gets nearly 350 visits a month. This loosely breaks down to 10 people clicking on to it every day – and over 70% of these are first time visits. The average time people stay on the site is over 5 minutes which in internet terms is quite a long time! These figures are slightly up on last year. Most of the visitors to the Trust's web site are in the UK but we have had people accessing the site from the USA, Australia, Canada, France, Norway, Finland, Belgium, Spain, and the Netherlands.

The Community Page also had a high visit rate, 65% of people who came to the site moved on to the Community Page. In every issue of the Honley Flyer we offer local organisations and clubs the opportunity to have links on this page to advertise themselves and their events **free**. We would like to see more Honley clubs and organisations taking up this (free) offer to get themselves publicity.

In addition 47% of visitors access the business directory which lists over 150 Honley based businesses. This is good news because the Village Trust actively encourages people to use local businesses, to keep Honley a thriving community.

If you type the word “Honley” into Google internet search engine, the Village Trust web site comes in the top 5 results!

In order to connect with a wider community the Trust has accounts on social networking sites. Twitter and Facebook maintained by Committee member Caitlin Hartley. [At present we have 126 followers on Facebook and 573 followers on Twitter.]

Marcia Murray

* Sources: UK Government Office for national statistics