



Honley Village Community Trust
Annual Report
2015

Presented to the Annual General Meeting
19 April 2016

HVCT Secretary's Review

During the year January to December 2015 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. During the course of the year the Committee has commenced a self assessment using a Charity Commission checklist for Trustee Committees, covering Strategy, Financial health, Governance and Making the best use of resources. This will be completed during 2016.

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. In addition the Trust has now become an associate member of Honley Business Association as a demonstration of its commitment to work with other organisations to enhance the life of the village.

The Trust contributed to the '*Its your neighbourhood*' initiative by purchasing hanging baskets and planters to improve the appearance around the Village Hall.

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 commenced in 2014 and were reported in last year's Annual Report. In March 2015 a very successful afternoon tea and evening event were held at the Village Hall as part of these celebrations. The final part of the celebration was to produce a 2016 calendar with scenes from Honley and its surroundings. Our thanks go to Carol Roberts for her hard work in making these events and activities a success and to Jo Bonds for her support in getting sponsors for the calendar.
- 2. Magdale Dam:** A major preoccupation of the Trust committee has been the repair to the earth dam banking to Magdale millpond. After an initial unsuccessful attempt to repair the leak by Holme Valley Piscatorial Society (HVPA) an assessment report was obtained from a specialist civil engineer. Following discussion between the Trust and HVPA on the best way to repair the leak there were delays in obtaining the permission to fell trees to enable access for the machinery to undertake the work. The heavy rainfall during the winter has postponed the completion of the work until Spring 2016.

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

Steve Hemming

HVCT Village Hall Committee Report

The Village Hall is owned by Kirklees Council and is rented by the Trust on a full repairing lease.

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

The Village Trust employs a part time cleaner for the Hall, Mrs Shirley Hinchliffe. We used to have a separate weekend cleaner but she left to go to university. Fortunately, Shirley agreed to take on the extra hours and now does weekend work as well.

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 are the same as last year and include Kirklees disability services every weekday and Elim Church which holds two meetings here on Sunday morning and evening. Saturday afternoon is popular for children's birthday parties averaging two bookings a month.

The hall is also in use every weekday evening except Friday. Regular evening users are the Slimming World organisation which holds two meetings in the hall every Monday. The Rainbows (junior guides) continue to meet here on Tuesdays.

On Wednesday evening a Kirklees run youth activity group for 8 to 12 year olds meet for a couple of hours after school; the Trust subsidises this meeting. Also on Wednesdays, following the Youth Group, there is a Pilates Class organised by physiotherapist Chris Liversidge. The Weight watchers Organisation meets here every Thursday evening.

Several day events took place here in 2015 including charity fund raisers, and Kirklees Council hires the hall to use as a polling station for local and national elections.

The Village Trust itself held two events at the Hall in 2015. The first was in February when the first and as it turned out the only meeting of the Trust's Café Film club was held on Valentine's Day evening when we showed the romantic film "The Notebook". I'd like to thank Steve and Tricia Hemming for all the work they put in on the day. Although there was a lot of interest expressed nobody has come forward offering to pick up the baton and take on organising further film nights. It's still a possibility if anyone is interested.

The second event was the Trust's 6th Christmas Craft Fair in December 2015 which was attended by over 300 people and which was held to coincide with the Street Market and Christmas Tree Festival. The Trust would like to thank Debbie Flanagan for again organising this event. Over £500 was raised on the day for the Trust funds. Thanks also to Caitlin Hartley, one of our committee members, again obtained matched funding grant from her employers EY.

Some fairly major improvements to the building took place in 2015. Firstly there was the installation of a new kitchen, and secondly the replacement of the front and back doors and the installation of double glazed windows all round. This should help reduce the heating costs. At the same time we opened up two windows to let in natural light in the small room off the entrance lobby. This used to be the computer room and the windows were originally boarded over for security reasons. Now however we no longer have computers. Local authority and parish council grants helped towards the cost of these improvements.

Another big improvement in 2015 was the replacement of the storage container sited outside the hall at the back. This brand new container valued at over £3,000 was given to us by a local benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous.

The Petanque terrain (or boules pitch) at the side of the hall is available for anyone to play on free of charge and is well used. Regular players, including a group from the U3A, turn up 4 times a week even through the winter!

Future Plans – You may be aware that Kirklees is offloading as many public buildings as it can and the Trust has been investigating the possibility of an asset transfer so that we become the outright owners of the building.

Marcia Murray

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

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 and we were again joined by students from Leeds University conservation group on one occasion

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

1. The planting of 30 native trees, mostly fruit trees, on the cleared area of Magdale banking and ensuring that area is maintained to give the trees the best chance of growth.
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. Clearance of silt from the goit feeding Magdale dam.
4. Taking forward action to repair the dam leak in liaison with HVPA
5. The paths through the land have been maintained and cleared of leaves and other debris.
6. Work has been undertaken to construct 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. It will be erected during Spring 2016.
7. We have continued to erect bird boxes in locations around the woodland areas.
8. An additional barrier gate has been erected on Coach Lane to prevent access by unauthorised vehicles to Magdale fields.

Neil Littlewood

Honley Flyer- Report (Job description!) Editorial and Advertising

The primary purpose of the Honley Flyer is to inform the village about what the Trust is doing. Secondly to report on and promote village organisations and thirdly to feature personal Honley stories. It comes out quarterly.

EDITOR (Presently John Murray)

The editor decides on the lead story for the next issue. This should preferably be on a Village Trust matter.

Gather necessary material, either from reporters (could do with some), contributors, or own research

Write the story / stories.

The Village Hall has half a page- written by the Hall Manager ([Presently Marcia Murray](#))

The Trust Volunteers (Land and maintenance work) – ([are reported on at present by Neil Littlewood](#))

The sponsors' piece comes under the 'Advertisements' heading for setting it up, though usually it is then written by the editor.

(Re adverts- see later paragraph).

s; pool; arts and crafts; baking; dance; multi-sports and trips to events elsewhere. We will be making a donation to help with the day trips. We also support The Rainbows who use Get current information for the next three months from local organisations by phoning them or email or meeting. These can be short items or just 'What's Ons', depending on the subject. The main ones are:

Yorkshire Traction & Honley Band
Honley Male Voice Choir
Honley Ladies' Choir
Honley ADS (Honley Players, Southgate Theatre)
Honley Civic Society
Honley Library
Churches (three)
Schools- Infants, Junior, High. Any extra-curricular events.
Anything from the pubs or clubs.

Various other Honley charities and branches of national charities, eg Lifeboats, Bloodwise.
Public notices- police, doctors.

Sports clubs: Honley Cricket Club, Football Club. Though these are covered pretty well by The Examiner from the sports point of view, there is often a social of some sort.

Leisure organisations, especially the Over 55s group, Dog Club, Etc

Make up the pages ready for the printer.

Presently I use Microsoft Publisher (but could be another package) The finished edit, hopefully with no unnoticed errors is transferred to a pdf on a data stick, or it could be emailed.. The Flyer is printed by Enterprise Print, Long Lane, on 100 gsm semi-gloss paper, trimmed but not folded.

Distribution takes place on the last weekend of the quarter. So printing is in the week before this, and deadline is two weeks before printing.

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER (Presently Mrs Jo Bonds)

The purpose of the adverts and the sponsorship is to pay the print costs of the Flyer. Print cost keeps going up and we may soon have to increase the current rates.

Advertisements

Find advertisers; in general, local advertisers, inform them of the rates and space availability.

There are (at present) 8 spaces single size at the bottom of pages 2 & 3. A rate card is available with the prices. Book the spaces. Get invoice sent to advertiser. Ideally invoices are sent and payment received before publication. Refer advertiser to the editor for content of the ad.

Editor then: Asks for copy or the details from which to make up the advertisement. Ensure it will fit, and remember it's only printed in black & white. This often involves several mails back and forth until satisfactory to both parties.

Sponsors

We have had a sponsor for each issue. The advertisement manager finds the sponsors- asks for suggestions. Occasionally someone offers to be a sponsor.

The sponsor should be a local retailer or person or business. The emphasis is preferably on the character and connection to the village rather than on the sponsor's business itself, though obviously the sponsor hopes it will do him/her some good.

The length is around 300 words and includes a picture. There's also an advert on the back page- which *can* promote the sponsor's business.

The editor has written most of these pieces but there's no reason why someone else shouldn't do it. ANY offers would be welcomed!

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER (Presently Daphne Smith)

There are around 40 volunteer distributors, organised by Daphne Smith.

Distribution involves getting the 3150 copies (about) from the printer, counting them out into bundles for each distributor and taking the bundles to them. The amounts vary from 20 to 120.

Distribution takes place on the last weekend of the quarter- i.e. last weekend in November (for the December issue), February (for the March issue), May (for the June issue), and August (for the September issue).

There is a list of areas / distributors which needs to be kept up to date. Distributors may need to be replaced- some leave Honley, some for other reasons. Finding distributors is very important, and it is not always possible to get someone who actually lives in their favoured distribution area. But without them the Honley Flyer would not exist!

John Murray

Over 55s Activities Group Report

The Over 55s club is going from strength to strength attracting between 40 and 45 four members each week, and more importantly we have six regular gentlemen members which makes life much easier.

At the beginning of the year The Trust made a grant to enable us to purchase a new table tennis table to replace the old one which had broken.

We are finishing our year with a meal at the Golden Cock at Farnley Tyas March 23rd.

In view of the uncertainty of the future of the Community Centre everyone is hoping that we have a venue to re-open in October.

Pat Barr

Secretary, Honley Over 55s group

HVCT: Youth Sub Group Report

Honley Village Community Trust has supported a range of youth organisations during the course of the year. A Youth Group for 8 to 12 year olds meets in the Village Hall for two hours on Wednesdays and engages in a range of activities - board gamethe Hall once a week, and the Scouts to whom we have made a donation.

As part of the Trust's 21st celebrations we made donations to the Infant and Junior Schools to assist in their activities with the young people of Honley.

Margaret Wadsworth
