

Waterhouses Community Association Trustees Annual Report 2016-7

As Hon. Secretary, I would like to review our activities throughout the past year with you.

Waterhouses Community Association's goals are to raise funds to cover the cost of running the Village Hall, provide activities, and to try and improve the quality of life and the environment for residents of our Village and those of the surrounding areas. Our Committee Members and Volunteers work hard to these aims and we must thank them all for their efforts.

Sadly, we lost two of our members this year, Ann Pears, who was an avid supporter and Volunteer Colin Fordham who has long been a member. We will miss them both. A Memorial was held in the Hall by Anne's family which was well attended.

Projects

The Orchard – Stefan has done a grand job in keeping the trees healthy and the results of his efforts are clear today as they are blossoming well. Unfortunately, a couple of trees were vandalised, and these have been moved to safer spots. The three trees planted in the enclosed play area were deemed to be a risk by the Council, so they have been successfully replanted along the Line.

The Parish Council obviously recognised Stefan's skills and provided him with many more trees to plant around the Village – which he did with the same enthusiasm and care.

The Council agreed to mow the Wild Meadow at Hedley Hill Terrace in July to encourage new growth. A list of the flowers there was identified by local John Sturdy, who has also volunteered to plot a Waterhouses Walk for us.

Projects in the pipeline are: placing seating on the Line, Meadow Notice Board and Orchard Maps. There are two new Projects planned, the first is that of refurbishing the kitchen as it is looking tired and has some damage to the units and cooker.

The second is being organised by member Vicky Beasley and it will provide school holiday lunches to those children whom benefit from free school meals in term-time. The Co-op has been raising money towards this on our behalf and we have received £374.26 from them so far.

Hall Activities

The Hall runs the following regular activities:

Drop In (thanks to Linda and Beryl), Cinema Club (thanks to Liz), Theatre Club (thanks to Pat), Grub Club, Puddle Jumpers Playgroup, (thanks to Vicky, Susan and helpers), SOSA run by Jude, Social Cub, Family Nights (thanks to Teri and her helpers), Quiz Night, (thanks to Stefan and his team) which has had an re-launch and is now held bi-monthly, Knit and Natter (thanks to Beryl), Wine Club, Floorball (thanks to Elizabeth Shove) and Multisports.

There is also Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and Music and Memories run by the RVS.

The Produce Show was very well supported and there were some excellent Scarecrow entries. Thanks go to the Mayor and Mayoress who judged the produce and Craft entries, George Hutchinson and grandson, Aaron, who judged the Scarecrows, and Dan Beasley who measured the sunflowers! Anybody who has met Dan will know he was an ideal choice for this task and needed a lot smaller ladder than I would have!

Children's drama activities are always popular, and we had 2 performances this year. The first was The Owl and the Pussycat produced by Kitchen Zoo, and from New Writing North, 'Monster Zoo'. There were workshops beforehand, with the children choosing which animal they would portray. It was a sell out on the day.

The Annual Village Trip to Alnwick Castle proved to be not as popular as previous years destinations, but those who went, returned full of praise for the venue.

The Members' Trip visited Morpeth and a wonderful day was had – improved by the men's cycle race whizzing through at a breakneck speed!

There were 2 talks at the Drop In: Bin it Right by Durham County Council and Beat the Scammers by Age UK. Despite the title of the talks they were extremely informative and useful.

Other Events were: Halloween Party, 2 Ceilidhs, Christmas Parties, Seniors Lunch and a photographic exhibition was held throughout November by Chris Younger who is Durham University's Artist in Residence.

Fund Raising

There were 3 Fairs during the year – Spring, Summer and Christmas. They raised £258.95, £353.05 and £475.67 respectively. There were a record number of children visiting Father Christmas this year – so much so, that we ran out of gifts for the older girls and had to be innovative!

The other 2 main fundraising events, the Duck Race and the Christmas Raffle, went very well raising a total of £737.63. Terri Hosler did a marvellous job in persuading local businesses to donate to the Christmas Raffle.

Charitable Donations/Events

A Coffee Mornings in aid of McMillan Nursing raised a record £708.

The money collected at the Produce Show from the auction of goods and donations for tea and coffee was donated to the local charity the LionmouthTrust, a total of £155.25.

We must thank all our volunteers who put on the events, they are too many to mention by name unfortunately. The success of the Hall and our Events depend on you. The Chair would also like to say thank you to the Committee Members for their contributions during the year.

Hall Matters

We have had some costly maintenance to do this year – mainly to do with re-enforcing lights and repairing heaters. A door needed replacement hinges and the main Hall was repainted in February by 5 very hardworking volunteers who finished the job in a day. Also, a repair was required on the wall at the rear of the garden, the roof needed repairing after a leak was discovered and the heavy snow brought some of the guttering down.

We have had two new additions to the Hall during the Year, the defibrillator and display cabinet. The Defibrillator was provided by the Esh Winning F.C. who sourced the funding for 2 – 1 at the Football Club and one here. We thank them for their generosity and hosting of the Volunteer training. 5 residents attended, and they spanned the village, with 1 from East Hedley Hope, 1 from Hedley Hill Terrace, 1 from Hamilton Row and 2 from Waterhouses. We thank Fiona Roberts, who has undertaken the task of regularly checking that it works and send the required Reports.

The second addition is the new display cabinet in the foyer. This was donated by Ivey Gardner's family in her memory and now houses the prestigious Queen's Award. We thank them.

Lastly our logo has been updated and now appears on all correspondence – thanks to Terri who sourced it.

Financial

A copy of the unaudited Profit and Loss Report from the Treasurer is available. The full Accounts are presently with Philip Clasper, our Accountant, for inspection. The hi-lights are as follows:

Opening Balance of £30k and closing balance of £30k.

There were no major purchases this year, but maintenance costs were higher than previous years.

The local Parish Councillor gave us £100 at Christmas time from her budget. Thanks go to Mrs. Wharton. The solar panels income was £973. Due to signatory and other difficulties there has once again been no donation from the Social Club this year. We are working towards rectifying this as soon as possible.