

Chair Annual Report for the period Sept 2018 to end of August 2019

Thank you everyone for coming along to Yetton Togethers 2019 AGM

We have had another busy year

As you know Yetton Together is made up of a number of working groups. Here is a summary of main activities and achievements that the working groups have been involved in during this time.

Management of the community centre – a big thank you to the team who manage and run the community centre because without them this building would not look like it does or be used as much as it is today.

Work at the centre this year has seen the completion of replacing the remaining 22 windows with glazed pvc units and the refurbishment of the 2 school toilet areas in to a meeting room and a much needed store room.

In addition work was started on disability access – new electric door, parking area for motorised wheelchairs, bikes and buggies and a new ramp. At the end of this financial year August this was virtually complete with a few snagging issues to finish.

We are pleased to say that bookings are up this year

The User Groups at the centre are developing in different ways and there are now regular activities using our spaces with good numbers attending.

The centres community groups include Knit & Natter, Creative Craft, Chair Exercise, Art.

Tutor run classes with wellbeing in mind include Yoga, Tai Chi, Mindfulness, Flower arranging, Drama. We also have a booking from 'Firm Roots' (church run group)

Friends of Library –continue to run the library and their supporting groups ie history group, book club, story time, children's craft activities, lego club along with one off activities such as Bat Hunt, Dr Who day, Summer Reading Challenge, under 8s Super worm story walk. All these activities bring people into and support the centre.

New groups hiring space are Spanish, U3A Music and Brownies.

Coffee shop Thanks to the hard work of all our volunteers, the coffee shop has had another very successful year and has established itself at the heart of the Community Centre.

Supporting events such as the 1940s day on the 6th May by operating a 'Wi Tea Room' where visitors sampled special treats such a Trench Cake and Empty Cupboard Loaf.

The coffee shop is also a great addition to the gala with lots of positive comments. Takings were a bit down this year but there could be a variety of reasons for that. However the place was buzzing and it was an enjoyable afternoon.

A volunteers meeting was held on the 27th June with a chance to share experiences, exchange ideas and clarify procedures. A proactive recruitment campaign achieved six new bakers and servers.

Every effort is made to have a range of prices with special offerings available at certain times of the year, such as Easter, Halloween and Xmas.

Following surveys, customer comments and trials of various baking etc the coffee shop now offers:- different cakes on a Friday Lego club to cater for youngsters, such as malteser topped chocolate cake and smartie traybake.

A small number of gluten free products

Pastries

Toasted teacakes

More bookings for the centre spaces whilst being a great development can also be problematic eg our shopper not being able to get into the kitchen, clearing and setting up tables, equipment etc. new systems have been put in to place and are being monitored as to their effectiveness.

A big thank you to all involved

Magazine and website Our very informative magazines continues to be delivered 3 times a year. Thanks To Sue for putting together the magazine and all 31 volunteers who help with delivery. Sue also manages the website and is very appreciative of the support given by Lee and Alison at Inspiration Computers. Both these activities are so valuable in keeping the community informed. Thanks to those who help Sue in this valued activity.

Environment – this year with new members the environment group is revitalised with its aim to improve the local environment. The gardening group has continued to make a difference. This year has been a very busy one for our 2 gardeners. They now have 17 tubs, 3 troughs, 1 large planter, a raised bed and the roundabout, to plant twice a year and maintain. They have been helped by a number of volunteers who have turned up on two Saturday mornings to help plant out the summer and autumn bedding (The Big Plant). Also 9 people kindly ‘adopted’ a tub near them and have watered and tended their charge over the year. This has taken some of the burden from our duo. However watering is an increasing and time consuming problem (especially at the roundabout) as we no longer have access to a nearby source of water. Getting water to various planting areas not adopted is no mean feat. Any extra help would be much appreciated.

The installation of new, stronger lampposts has allowed new hanging baskets brackets to be put up at the centre of the village. This means that we now have 6 empty brackets in other places. We hope to finance more next year bringing the total to 26 (At present 20 baskets are financed by the 200 Club)

The group have been exploring other various issues ie footpaths usability, protecting and enhance green spaces.

To help prioritise projects planned, reviews of what we already have are and will take place.

The first of which was In May 2019 a Bio Blitz organised by Clare Walters the aim to begin an audit of our wildlife we can then focus and protect and enhance the richest areas found in our lovely village. Eleven people met up for a walk around the area off Laneside. Clare is collating this information. It's an ongoing project so any information on flowers, birds, creepy crawlies etc. you spot on your walks or in your garden please let her know.

A big thankyou goes to the volunteers who have helped over the year to make Kirkheaton a more pleasant place to live.

Yetton Hub – The hub has been a great success growing from delivering talks to various trips and other get together's. This year we were treated to 10 talks, Christmas social, gin tasting, theatre trips and afternoon tea. It was evident that there was a need to attract more people to deliver these activities and Bev instigated bringing interested people together to organise some events and a social events group was formed.

Social event group – This started off with a Fashion Show 2nd September 2018 followed by a New Year social. Following these successes the newly formed group put on a summer social in July. Any profits from these events go to YT. The group also supported other groups in their fundraising events to raise money for the centre. Thank you to all involved.

Youth group - providing alternative activities for young people

The main activity over the past year has been the continuation of the multi sports sessions run by Total Sports Foundation a community orientated company which runs sports activities for children and young people in schools and community groups. Funding for this activity was provided by a 'Awards for All' grant.

Weekly sessions were held from June last year until July this year, initially in the community centre and then in the United Church hall. They attracted up to 23 children over the past year made up of boys and girls in the 7 to 9 years age group. In addition holiday club sessions were held in May.

Qualified coaches led the sessions with the aim of helping children to develop physical flexibility and coordination through ball games and other team games in a disciplined way while having a lot of fun.

From the enthusiastic response of the children involved and the support of parents who accompanied their children to the start of the sessions it was clear that the children gained a lot of experience in working in teams responsibly, in the well run sessions.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to continue the sessions beyond the current funding which ended in July but there may be further opportunities to run similar activities in the future for this age group.

A big thankyou Eric and those who have supported for making this happen.

Transport - John continues to inform the group of any updates re buses etc servicing the village

Fundraising

In September 2018 the newly formed social events group held a fashion show. Their enthusiasm and verve helped to raise a £446 for the centre.

A Christmas Fair was held in November organised by the craft group with support of the social group and raised £471

Murder Mystery evening £125 Lorna, Jean and Judith

The centre hosted the Creative Craft groups Forties Family Fun Day in May, raising £350 for the centre. Experiences included ration books war time sweets, volunteers dressed in 1940s gear, tastes of wartime Britain carrot cookies, cupboard cake etc, air raid shelter experience, childrens games of the time, WI tea room, display from Tolsen Museum. Thank you to them and the help from the social group.

The 200 club distributed £1010 in prize money this year and the rest excluding expenses was used to towards the fabulous hanging baskets in the village.

Collection boxes are spread around the village in local businesses. These bring in welcome funds

Dementia friends

We are very fortunate to have on our team a Dementia UK Volunteer Ambassador, Jean Broscombe and with her help a group has got together to move Kirkheaton towards becoming a dementia friendly village. They have been exploring routes for this to happen including Dementia Awareness Training sessions at the Community Centre supported by Alzheimer's Society and led by Maureen Winfield. Here people learned more about dementia, its symptoms and gain an understanding of dementia and its challenges. The sessions were attended by 45 people and they were all awarded a badge/certificate to say they had attended the Dementia Friends training.

Grants and funding Lorna's great work in obtaining funding for all the various projects include these welcome funders

Dalton Ward – local Members Project funding

NHS Foundation Trust Admiral nurses

Community Learning Works (Kirklees)

One 17 Charitable Trust

Bernard Sunley Fund

Kirkburton Parish Council

One Community

All help towards work at the centre –

Big Lottery Awards for All – Childrens Sports scheme

All funding goes towards development of the centre building and activities put on for the benefit of the community.

Working in Partnership – supporting other groups community events/activities/groups

-Parish Church 26th September a joint YT/Church Barn dance was held at the church and good fun it was too. Groups from the centre also supported the churches December Xmas tree festival entering their trees. It's a wonderful way of bringing together the community and shows how people can be very inventive.

A Macmillan fundraising coffee afternoon organised by Helen Jones and church volunteers was held at the Community Centre, supported by YT volunteers raised £1000 for this worthy cause thank you to all involved.

- The Community gala on 23 June 2019 was another success with fine weather and a family fun day. A proportion of the proceeds of £1846 went to supporting the centre its library and other activities.

-Kirkheaton Future – continues to act on the communities behalf to develop the Neighbourhood Plan for the village. The magazine and website keeps the community informed of progress.

-Food stuff collected at the centre goes to Greenfields Childcare and Family Centre-foodbank. It's good to see the box filling up and going to a worthy cause.

-July 2019 saw 3 free workshops 'Save food, save money' hosted by YT. This was a sponsored 'Save Food' project by Sainsburys in partnership with Kirklees council.

-Local businesses – collection boxes continue to bring in welcome funds thank you to the businesses involved

-YT supported the dry stone walling group Coldroyd wallers by holding funds for the project. This group worked alongside Kirklees Countryside volunteers to rebuild dry stone walls on Coldroyd.

- Anyone in Kirkheaton can contact the council re improvement of council owned land e.g. rough areas, footpaths, local roads etc. - grot spots. The environment group also inform council of any areas they are aware of.

A big thank you to Local Ward Cllrs for their support and regular attendances to the centre, Forum and at events

Thank you also to KBPC Cllrs and welcome to new Cllrs Clare Walters, and Simon Duffy who are regular attenders at the Forum meetings.

Dalton Ward – YT reps attend meetings, the aim of which is to bring local groups together. Lorna with the help of Northern College hosted a weekend away. This included a mix of 18 adults from the ward (Kirkheaton is a part of) meeting up and exploring working together to make Dalton Ward a better place to live and work for ourselves and our families.

Students from the National Citizens Service came to the centre in August as part of their course to deliver a social action project. They put on a Charity auction then did 8 other challenges including 2 cake bakes, a midnight walk, a fun day, tombola, bingo and 2 students did a sponsored bike ride to Manchester. In total they raised £984 for the centre which deposited in our bank a/c in September 2018 and therefore included in this years report. Thanks to Bev and Lorna for supporting this group.

It's important to mention the **Contribution made by volunteers**. Our volunteers are an important and valuable resource with over 50 people involved in supporting and organising all of the activities mentioned. There are many opportunities for people to become involved include organising and being involved with different aspects of Yetton Together and working groups, supporting or joining in with activities which support the community such as working for the coffee shop, planting, distribution of magazines, painting & decorating, clearing open spaces, gala etc.

We thank them all for their involvement because without them we would not be able to be involved in so many activities.

Early in Nov 2018 Sue and Michael Bowyer due to their untiring work keeping the planted areas of the village looking great, joined nearly 150 volunteers at the invitation of 'More in Common' (part of the Jo Cox Foundation') at Batley Town Hall. This event acknowledged the dedication of a whole range of volunteers in Kirklees.

We should also recognised the trustees, steering group and Community Centre Management team who give a lot time to the organisation aspect of YT- Thank you

Future - from the 1 September 2019

We are now into November so here is a summary of what has happened so far in this accounting year and some planned events.

The social group put on a Fashion Show on the 28th September which was a great success Also in October there was a Table top sale held at the centre. Both were enjoyable social events and any profits made will go towards YT and CC projects.

Dementia Friendly Village – On the 12 October the group interested in dementia worked together with Kirkheaton Parish Church, Dementia UK and other supporting agencies on a very successful evening where the theatre group AZ2B to put on two productions 'Grandma Remember Me' and 'What Do you See'. This is the start of an exciting project to encourage Kirkheaton to be a Dementia Friendly Village. Everyone who came to see these plays was

visably moved, they were very thought provoking and extremely well done. A big thank you for those involved in the organisation of this event and volunteers on the evening helping to make everything run smoothly.

Jean was also part of a party invited to an exclusive Dementia UK reception at No 11 Downing Street to celebrate the work done in promoting Dementia awareness. They had lovely time and felt quite honoured by the invitation to celebrate their success.

The next step is to develop a friendship café where everyone is welcome especially those who would benefit from a relaxed social get together e.g those suffering with Parkinsons, Dementia, and any other conditions where friendship would help to combat their feelings of social isolation.

The Coffee Shop will be introducing Danish Pastries on Saturday mornings as a trial.

As people may know Bev prepared the baking/serving rota, managed the coffee shop float and takings and produced wonderful cakes. Following her leaving there will be a transition period for volunteers to take on these tasks. However there is a strong team and everyone will do their utmost to ensure that things run smoothly.

Sincere thanks go to the volunteers involved in so many different ways they are the backbone of the operation and benefit the centre both in terms of community engagement and financially.

An Orchard clear up took place on 2 November, 11 volunteers turned up to clear rubbish and tidy up identified areas. Thank you to Kirklees for removing the filled bags .

On Dec 3 at the Orchard, preparation and digging over of identified areas will take place, with the help of 'Support to Recovery' group. They will prepare the ground ready for planting wild flower bulbs and seeds in the spring.

YT are supporting drystone walling group in a project in conjunction with the football club repairing drystone walls bordering the football club.

Ongoing project work include:-

The council is looking to develop parking bays on Fields Rise, although it is recognised that this will not solve the difficulty of parking near the centre it will help significantly.

Future development of the Community Centre centres round exploring the idea of developing a car park and community garden and situating a defibrillator at the centre Environment projects include Orchard maintenance, surveys (Bats), developing a programme on footpaths clearance.

Those booked on a trip to the theatre to see 'Body Guard' on Wednesday 27th November are looking forward to the trip. Another theatre visit is already booked up in March 2020 – 'Beautiful' – the carol King musical

Finally *don't* forget the Hub Xmas social is on the 10th December

Thank you all for coming tonight

Do enjoy the mulled wine and mince pies now available