

YT AGM Sept 2022 – Aug 2023

Chair report

Summary

We appointed and welcomed 2 new trustees at the last Novembers AGM Tyler Hawkins and John Senior

I would like to start this years report by saying over the years we have built up our volunteer support and have an amazing group of people who give their time willing to helping Yetton Together and the Community Centre provide various activities for the community. Without them we would not have been able to achieve the many things I'm going to report tonight. So a heartfelt thankyou to all our volunteers.

In the next section I will give reports from all our working groups their achievements and points of interest from September 2022 to August 2023.

Community Centre

Admin Karen Oates left us early this year due to family reasons we thank her for hard work and willingness at all times to help. Carol Wright took up the post again in the spring and with her input a GAP score of 5 was achieved which is the top score for policies and procedures.

It was decided to slim down the Centre management team and set up an Operational Group for the day to day running of the building. This consists of Jean Broscombe, Lesley Ingleby and Carol Wright (admin). We feel this will work more efficiently and reduce some of the workload of some trustees. The operational group look at health & safety matters; bookings and activities; the coffee shop; maintenance of the building and minor repairs.

Due to the increase of users of the centre storage became a problem after a good sort out and a donation of shelving and new cupboards from Hills Supplies we now have a much easier space to manage.

You may have seen new signage at the centre – Notice board, wall signage these were obtained through funding from KBPC. In addition there is new road signage on New Road and at the roundabout identifying where to find the Community Centre curtesy of Kirklees Council.

A Hive system has been installed plus a grant for thermostats hopefully this will help to reduce our energy bills

The Old school Bell has been restored and was displayed in the hall ready for the 140 years celebration of the building. Thanks to Mark Berry who fitted the shelf for us.

We have been working on the idea of developing the outside space alongside Kirklees landscape architects. Making a more useable and attractive space. This is proving to be more time consuming than we thought with a number of hurdles to contend with. A topographical survey has been commissioned and completed. Plans for you to see are available at the end of this evening

We are also exploring idea of insulation of ceilings again more complicated than thought but hopefully we are getting somewhere with this and we will be able to proceed in the near future.

Use of the centre has steadily increased following the extensive disruptions due to Covid and fall into these categories – Yetton Together activities

Tutor led groups

Community led groups

Library and its linked groups

One off activities include Valuation days, Childrens parties etc.

New chairs and projector screen have been donated by Eric Simpson

Thank you to John Ingleby, John Senior and Malcolm Williams for small DIY jobs and supporting some groups with table and chairs.

Coffee shop – Thank you Lesley for your report

Lego cafe restarted last September with just a few children present. This built up during the year and we regularly had around 20 children up to the summer holidays, the library supporting each child with a fruit drink and chocolate biscuit from January onwards.

In October we celebrated the 140 years anniversary of this building with an exhibition featuring its service to the community. The weekend saw a steady stream of visitors reminiscing about the times they spent here as pupils, members of youth clubs etc over coffee and cakes provided by our café volunteers.

Also in October we were re-awarded our 5 star Health & Hygiene rating for the coffee shop kitchen.

Thanks to Eric Simpson for kindly donating our new “stock” cabinets. These are now in the bottom store room and are proving really useful.

On Coronation Saturday afternoon we served 100 free cream teas over two sittings. Thanks to Diane Hardcastle who sourced them through Morrisons at a reduced price and the social group who served them; all of which added to a very enjoyable afternoon.

We had held our prices from pre pandemic but with sharp increase in costs had to increase them in June but we are still very good value.

In addition we have supported many meetings, makers markets, valuations days, a wildlife project and a history group walk with cafes, refreshments or servers.

Thanks to our star bakers and smiley servers we are kept busy and the cafes always have a happy vibe about them.

Environment – The environment section of YT are involved with various aspects connected with the environment.

1. Gardening – Thank you Julie for your report

-The Island garden outside the surgery is almost complete now. Last winter it was completely cleared apart from the outer perimeter box hedge. All the inner box hedging was sold to fund more garden planting. Manure was dug in all over and then it was planted up with over 60 drought tolerant plants and covered with gravel in between to retain moisture. After planting there was no rain for a month (hard to believe now) but no plants were lost so this is a good sign. There have been many self seeded flowers as well as seeds Julie has scattered and there have been many bees on it. The grant has all been spent but there should be no further costs now, it will be evolving and self-sustaining. Thanks to the Parish council for the grant, the result is very pleasing and there have been many positive comments.

- Last autumn, over 100 daffodil bulbs that were dug up from the island were planted in the grass opposite the shop, these came up in spring. This autumn Julie bought 200 crocus bulbs and these have been added too for extra colour. Permission was gained for planting from the owner.

- The Seed Bank in the library has received many donations in its first year of use and plenty of people have made use of the seeds.

-The village tubs continue to be planted and maintained individually by volunteers with funding for plants from Yetton Together.

-Latest project is church view garden, opposite the church. It has been cleared ready for replanting as a no water garden. Julie will buy the plants with money from the plant sales .

Thanks to anyone who has helped in whatever way including the photos, of planted tubs around the village, posted on social media by Sean Rogers which raises the profile of all the good work volunteers do to make the village look as attractive as it does.

2. Orchard

A new bench has been installed giving a chance to sit a while and enjoy the peace and quiet. This was jointly financed by Yetton Together and Costcutter customers via YT's collection box in the store. it's a pity it's been vandalised but that will be remedied soon.

Mowing continues to be done by Kirklees keeping a pathway winding up and around trees. An attractive new sign has been put up at the orchard encouraging people to enjoy the community space and its fruit with the public being asked to leave only footprints. There is also a new sign at the newly planted roundabout, both funded by KBPC.

Various activities are organized throughout the year with support coming from 20% for wildlife group including - tidy ups , strimming, planting of bulbs, wildflower areas, building bug hotel and bird boxes.

Visits have been arranged with Kirkheaton school for various awareness of wildlife sessions eg Eco club, autumn in the orchard.

Pruning workshop March 4th

There has been family orientated talks at the centre including Ray Browns talk about local wildlife with various associated activities for children

Environment group members work with the villages 20% Wildlife group on a number of activities which have taken place to enhance wildlife in the area including – bird walks, Swift talks followed by putting up bird boxes by local roofer Daniel Nutton and shrubs and insect friendly bushes have been planted on the slope of field next to Centre

3. Recycling –

Thanks to Sue there is a point at the centre to recycle various items, plus plastic bottle tops are donated to cancer research. Sue also gave a talk on recycling for the children at Kirkheaton school.

4. Hanging Baskets

200 club proceeds provide the hanging baskets around the village – Thank you Sue for organizing such a visable attraction to the village

5. The group alert those responsible within Kirklees any concerns from the community re footpaths, grot spots etc.

Thank you to all volunteers who organize, arrange and get involved in the many activies to do with the environment.

Social events

Social group organized -Quiz night December 2022 raising £250 to help support the centre
-Ukulele night August 2023

-Regular Makers Markets

They also support various other events such as the Coronation celebration afternoon tea for 100 residents

The group instigated the opening of a Warm Space at the Community Centre with grants from TSL and Kirkburton Parish Council. This started on 15.11.22 to 28 2 23 Tuesday and Wednesday's providing free drinks and snacks in safe warm environment this was received very favourably. This was extended into the summer with new volunteers.

A number of talks have been arranged over the year and have included – Africa wildlife, Saltaire – where people were invited to get into character, beekeeping, how to grow tropical plants.

Magazine, website and social media

Over the last year 3 editions of our free community magazine 'Yetton News' has been distributed by volunteers to over 2,300 homes and business in around Kirkheaton. We know from comments we receive people enjoy reading it and for some non digital residents it is their only source of what is happening in our community.

A big thank you goes to our businesses advertisers who finance it and to our distributors. Without them there would be no magazine.

We would also like to thank Sue Bowyer who after editing the magazine for over 30 editions, has now passed the editing pencil over to volunteers Martin and Helen Aust. We thank them for agreeing to take on the task.

Sue continues to update the website informing readers on what's happening in the area

Diane and Carol keep social media updates on what's happening

Transport - thankyou to John Hinchliffe for keeping us updated on the bus service or lack of it. He and others try hard to engage with the companies but there seems little anyone can do to influence there decisions. Keep at it John you never know.

Grants and funding

You will have noticed various achievements have been funded from a number of sources. These have been obtained thanks to Lorna who works tirelessly to gain funding to support many of the things Yetton Together are involved in.

In addition to those are

- Grant funding from Awards for All to retain our paid administrator

- One community funding towards energy bills

- Mindfulness - Funding from One 17 and One community to run 2- two 8wk courses

- Procured a grant of £4,500 from One Community to be spent on food vouchers for families struggling with the cost of living crisis

Fundraising and donations

200 club – funding the hanging baskets. For a small subscription participants can win 1 of 4 prizes every month (leaflets on the table if you want to sign up)

Collection boxes at various businesses in the village

Individual donations

Gift Aid

Small sales eg books, jams etc

Reaching out to the Community

Partnership with Kirkheaton Primary School - We have strengthened our bonds with our local school. Its headteacher Richard Coates and various members of staff regularly attend our monthly forum.

Classes from the school regularly visit the library

Various members of our Environment group have supported the school by helping redevelop the pond and wildlife area.

A YT Trustee visited the school's eco club to raise awareness about recycling resulting in the children working with the Community Centre on the recycling of milk bottle tops and greetings cards.

From the successful bid from One Community the school distributed £100 to 45 families in the area to help families in need.

YT organised donations from groups within the Community Centre resulting in £525 been given to the school to give a book to each pupil at Christmas.

Encouraging community participation - Besides the usual group activities on offer YT has organised or supported other events over the year designed to bring people together

8 Week Free Mindfulness Course– which proved to be so popular that it was oversubscribed and an additional course had to be set up

The Warm Space afternoons [Tues & Wed] where residents can socialise in a welcoming atmosphere and have a free snack and drink proved so popular it was extended in March opening one day a week during the summer. Thank you to the new volunteers for keeping this worthwhile project running.

Home from home - play around dementia 'Wishes Fulfilled' early in the year. Where the audience experienced a rollercoaster of emotions. Funny, moving, informative and profound all rolled into one act and excellent performance.

Subsidised Art Workshop sessions when over 6 months participants could learn new techniques in the company of others.

Eat well move more – 3 sessions how to shop, store and cook more healthier sponsored by TSL working in partnership with Chair Exercise group

Coronation Afternoon tea weekend of the 5th May

Library and YT support and help each other in many areas

The Parish Church held a Ceilid earlier in the year and this was a joint effort with Yetton Together. We have a good working relationship with the church and support each other in many ways e.g. YT and a number of groups from the Community Centre join in the Christmas tree festival, sharing equipment, members of the PCC are involved in decision making on the aspects of the structure of the building.

History Group – Talks, walks and events - Celebration of the building 140yrs YT in conjunction with History group and Parish Church Oct 2022 –the exhibition was a great success a real trip down memory lane for a lot of people.

Playspaces – partnership with Kirklees Cllrs to gain better play facilities for our village – plans are on display

Welcome new groups to the centre, helped by our new groups policy offering free room for a period.

The Community groups using the centre support us in many ways – helping, organising events etc.

Volunteers

A celebration of volunteers afternoon tea was held in Sept 2022 at the centre, combining 12years of the formation of YT and 7years of being a Charity, 80 volunteers were invited. It was a good opportunity to meet up with others who support the charity. Thanks again to all volunteers for all you do to help YT and the Community Centre.

Future September 2023 ->

We are looking at different ways to reduce our energy costs at the centre.

Continue to develop our links with Kirkheaton Primary School, local churches and other local groups

Look to broaden the range of people we can support

Environment

A number of activities are planned for the Orchard including

- More tidy up days

- A pruning morning on the 3th January

- Planting of bulbs, courtesy of KBPC and funds for obtaining the bulbs.

- Cutting back brambles Orchard – already done some work

There will be some new self-watering planters at the bottom of the village through a grant from KBPC. The ones that are there at present are wood and rotting away so the new ones will be a good addition and will need less maintenance.

The group always appreciate any help please contact Clare or look for pleas on social media

The Social group have organized a Murder Mystery night on the 11 November and a Quiz night on the 16 December

This group will be meeting in Jan to discuss plans for 2024

YT have a very active volunteer pool who are involved in many aspects of the organization.

For the future new trustees would be welcome additions especially younger community minded volunteers, in order to strengthen our sustainability as a group. As a starter an article has been placed in the Autumn magazine to highlight our need.

Unfortunately Paul Holdsworth and Debs Maybury are unable to continue keeping the grass cut in the CC yard due to work and other commitments. A big thank you for the work they have undertaken for the Centre.

Neil Richardson has joined us on a regular basis helping groups with set ups and clearing away at the centre.

Throughout the year a working group has been looking at ways to development the outside space of the Community Centre. This is a lovely large area but very run down it could be made into a very useful space for the community. Initial gathering of views of what could be included have come up with a sensory garden, sitting areas, raised beds, storage shed, event space/parking, extra space for activities eg coffee shop days.

This is out of the groups experiences and it was thought to get some expertise advice would be the way forward. Working with Kirklees Landscape architects progress has been made. We now have had a Topographical Survey completed, which informs planning of the space. Please look at the plans displayed – comments and thoughts are welcome, there are labels to write on and hang on the tree.