

Hellifield Institute

Hellifield Village Hall 
Main Street, Hellifield, BD23 4JY

Report of Chairperson of the Trustees for Annual General Meeting March 2022

The Institute emerged from strict Covid-19 restrictions in June 2021, with the first Coffee Morning being embraced enthusiastically by regulars. It was clear that many single residents welcomed the opportunity to interact again, even if it entailed social distancing. The numbers attending have gone from strength to strength and although not back to our pre Covid attendance, these mornings have provided an additional income stream and an informal meeting point for Trustees and other village 'organisers.'

As in 2020, the Institute benefitted from 'lockdown' grants and ended 2021 in an even stronger financial position than the previous year. This relative affluence means the Trustees have been able to continue to offer free facilities to villagers until the end of 2022 as well as reduce charges for commercial hirers. This offer has been made very much in line with the spirit of our governing document. Along with this benefit to the community, we have also managed to:

- fund the refurbishment of the foyer doors and windows (which were damaged the previous year)- improving the visual impact of the entrance, being more heat efficient and enabling easier access for disabled visitors;
- purchase a taller ladder with a secure platform for access to the lighting and gutters;
- buy a higher specification projector;
- replace our aged vacuum cleaner;
- offer some different forms of entertainment, which have been sponsored by Rural Arts England and normally would have been too expensive for us to risk staging;
- start the process of remodeling the Yorke room with a view to improving it for letting purposes and facilitating secure and easier storage of all our equipment, tables and chairs. This will be the main focus of our plan for 2022.

Much of 2021 has been positive for our Board. We have expanded the range of activities offered, increased numbers for some clubs and recruited more helpers and two new Trustees. The 200 Club continued to raise a beneficial amount of money, although we will target this as an area for expansion in 2023. The Christmas Show was extremely successful both as a quality entertainment involving 24 people and as a source of revenue, with both nights 'sold out'! We will look forward to the collaboration between the Choir and Shauvon for this year's extravaganza. Our goal to be greener has been assisted by two additional bins and we are continuing to replace non-recyclables with more environmentally friendly solutions.

Janet returned to cleaning duties in January, when they spent 3 months 'deep cleaning' and together have undertaken additional sanitation duties weekly. They are

to be thanked for keeping us 'spic and span' and Covid compliant. Jen Darling has proved a valuable committee member, ensuring the bins are put out, the library books are sorted and the yard is swept regularly. Chris Kershaw has continued to be a stalwart support for all sound and lighting for shows and we are pleased to be able to supplement his efforts with the addition of Trustee Michael and volunteers Mik Cardus and Andrew Wilkinson. Barry Hills and Helliarts also provided valuable help for the show. Sadly, Kat Kellett could no longer maintain her commitment but we are thankful for her help for most of 2021 and promised support in future. We are pleased to enlist Libby Hankins as our Facebook facilitator, Andrew Dakin to assist with general maintenance and Stan and Liz Kilburn for yard duties and coffee mornings.

Ann Taylor was elected as Chair of Trustees at the 2021 AGM and is fortunate that the outgoing Chair left all matters in order and the Institute in a sound financial position. Our official thanks must go to Andrew Crabtree for this and his continued support as our external financial examiner. Richard Brown completed another year as Treasurer and it is with great gratitude and sadness that we bid him farewell after 5 years dedicated service to the Board. My induction as Chair has been painless owing to the tireless support and effort of my fellow Trustees: Dave Clements, Karen Dunwoodie, Heather Leak and Ken Leak. I look forward to Michael Robinson and Paul Surbuts further strengthening our team. No-one should underestimate the time that each Trustee gives on a weekly basis to ensure that the Village Institute continues to be well maintained and a viable venue to hire.

Hopefully, 2022 will be a restriction free year and we can look to resolve the subsidence issue, refurbish the Yorke Room and expand the number and range of villagers using the Institute.

Ann Taylor
Chairperson
March 2022