

Trustees Report 2015/16

Regular activities

The regular weekly activities that have continued to take place throughout this year are:- line dancing, circle dancing (2 days) indoor bowls (3 sessions) SCAD indoor bowls, brownies, weightwatchers, luncheon club, Glusburn Youth Theatre Group, NYCC Youth Club, yoga, dog club and the art group. Unfortunately we have lost the following over this year:- martial arts, COBRA fitness groups and GradePlus tuition English & Maths together with the Accordion group which had been with us for over 20 years. We have gained a second yoga group and a Zumba Gold fitness class and Steeton Flower club is coming after Easter. Also new groups linked to the appointment of a temporary outreach worker are expected.

In addition the Bronte Wheelers & RSPCA have been using the facilities for meetings & the Walking for Health group also use it as a base. A local dance school, a primary school and the local scout group have all put on shows using our stage facilities.

Our Development Officer, together with trustees, has again continued to organise the following :- Art & Crafts fair, Fallfest, an Arts Festival weekend, combined with Heritage Day, a monthly Film club & a weekly café with IT training alongside several band nights. There is a continuing increase in using the building by casual users for private parties for children and for family celebrations such as wedding anniversaries, wedding receptions, family gatherings etc. There are also more bookings for meetings, trainings & fundraising events.

Achievements 2015/16

The luncheon club has continued to thrive with an average of 30 people a week attending. It extended the number of weeks by going through the summer holiday & only stopped for one week at Xmas. They have just received grants, totalling £1500 from Craven District Council & Glusburn & Cross Hills Parish Council to purchase a new cooker. The Fallfest weekend was again a great success with a local drama teacher producing a series of pageants on the history of the building which linked to it being held on the Heritage day. The Development Officer successfully bid for grants from the North Yorkshire Sustainable Communities Fund & the Foyle Trust for an Outreach Worker to undertake a survey about the needs of particularly the elderly & people with disabilities in the area and to organise activities accordingly. These grants have totalled £11,000 which are being matched by GCAC in terms of rent, management time & use of resources.

In terms of our building & its surrounding car park and our share of a private road, we re-lined the car park and after two years of negotiation, managed to get the road re-surfaced. Five local businesses helped us to find the necessary money to undertake this which has been of great benefit to the four residents who own the other half of the road.

Glusburn & Cross Hills Parish Council gave a grant of £9000 in April to enable further renovation of windows. The actual work of renovating the large, stained glass chapel window was completed in the summer of 2015. This now looks really impressive, after all the glass was taken to the Design Glass company workshop for repair before being repositioned by our joiner.

Looking after the windows is an ongoing maintenance project which is very difficult to obtain funding for, as it does not directly bring in more users but is still essential if the trustees are to undertake their responsibilities for the fabric of the building.

Unfortunately in line with the national cutbacks on local council spending, our core funding of £5000 towards the salary of our Development Officer has been withdrawn for 2016/2017. This has resulted in the post of Development Officer being made redundant from April 1st 2016. A small sub committee of trustees are trying to take on the external events organisation and we have now made the caretaker post, into a more general, Centre Manager role.

We as trustees, are pleased that the building remains under our control as we do not have the additional fear of being affected by local council decisions to sell off their land and property. It is a big challenge to maintain a building of this size, especially as it is a listed building and to keep it financially sustainable in the current climate. However we believe we can continue to achieve this whilst responding to the needs of our local residents.