

## **Report of Chairperson of the Hellifield Institute Trustees for Annual General Meeting March 2024**

The last year has been one of achievement, overwhelming support from our Community and the sad loss of several supporters.

After seven years of planning, fund raising and disappointments, the National Lottery Community Award for all gave us the opportunity to complete the provision of an integrated storage area and repurposed Yorke Room. This Board has been successful in delivering the vision of its predecessors. We were delighted to be able to use local tradespeople to complete the job and feel that all our users and previous Trustees have been impressed by the outcome. This has been achieved via parsimonious budgeting by previous Boards, generous donations from the community and Skipton Building Society, continued regular support from the Community, help from Bob Moore, the co-operation of the WI and the Parish Council and a lot of effort from the Trustees. We have used a considerable amount of our reserve funds to finish the project so the Trustees are mindful that maintaining a good income flow in 2024 will be important. Michael will be monitoring our expenditure carefully; Ken and Heather will be increasing their efforts to recruit new users and hirers and the rest of us will be developing as many income streams as possible.

Our new Trustees, Liz and Andrew, have proved valuable additions to the Board and we now have nine Trustees. Andrew has enhanced our media presence by adding us to 'X' and ensuring that we have a robust social media policy, as well as consulting with Dave on the selection of the best new Internet provider for the building. As several Trustees will end their terms next year, we are always looking for replacements so that succession can take place smoothly. Our cleaning team coped admirably with the disruption and dust caused by the Yorke Room's refurbishment. Andrew Lambert's retirement has been a bonus for us, and he kindly pops into the Institute most mornings to check all is well. Jeanette continued to manage our payroll for a minimum fee and Andrew Crabtree again offered his services to scrutinise our annual accounts.

Maralyne Cadman and Jen Darling have continued to give their invaluable support, keeping the outside swept and the books tidied and recycled. Chris Kershaw and Barry Hills have been ever present to provide invaluable support for our entertainment events. Andrew Wilkinson is now managing our website quietly and efficiently. Libby Hankins has been a creative and diligent Facebook manager. Sue Surbuts and Stan Kilburn have provided huge support in their role as Trustee spouses! Along with these regular supporters, thanks must be given to villagers who help with Institute Coffee mornings and other events and the leaders of the various activity groups who use the Village Hall.

This year has seen the development of a Games Club, which has evolved from Warm Spaces, a Line Dancing Group and it seems that the Craft Group will establish itself in 2024. Badminton, bowls, table tennis, Helliarts, Helliscribes Hellireaders and Hellisingers have all attracted new members, keeping the Hall well-used during the week. The Parish Council have continued to meet in our building; hopefully, the Yorke Room is much more comfortable for them! North Craven Flower Club and the WI have experienced dwindling attendances so the former has moved to an

afternoon slot in the hope of attracting more members and WI are evaluating their future; let us hope that they have a successful recruitment drive. Messy Monkeys have brought in a younger audience on Wednesday mornings and the cardio-vascular clinics returned in May and June. Coffee Mornings have been fully supported every Saturday and the decision by the Trustees to fill any gaps has been welcomed by the regular attendees and been a great boost to our income.

Karen has worked hard to provide a variety of entertainments, which both attract less frequent users of the Hall and provide much needed extra income. The Year started with a fantastic Time Banditz Concert. The members provide their performance at a very low cost and to date, tickets have always sold out rapidly. Nicola Mills was invited back in the Spring, as a result of popular demand, and the public did not disappoint with their support. We hosted two literary events to support the WI and Book Club; both of which were sell outs and provided a different dimension to our entertainment. The Julia Chapman Book Reading attracted visitors from as far away as Lancaster! The Beer Festival was again held in the Institute and proved to be the best yet. Again, it offers a different form of entertainment and attracts whole families and visitors from afar; really making the Institute the Hub of the village for two days. As in previous years, we also benefitted from a generous donation from their committee. The Christmas Show was scaled down this year but still proved incredibly popular, with the maximum permissible number of guests squeezed in and a great round of Pass the Parcel!

The core purpose of the Institute is to provide a space, at low cost, in which villagers can meet, undertake educational activities and offer room for entertainment or charitable purposes. With this in mind, charges were held in 2023 and the Trustees will be mindful of this as they set the 2024 budget. The Trustees very much hope that the Institute does offer a warm welcome to all and is part of a caring, thriving village community. We were saddened to lose several villagers in 2023, amongst them were some long-term supporters, whose deaths we would like to note in order to express our appreciation of them: Dennis Briggs, Jenifer Toms, Ray Tremlett and John Flitcroft. John was a former Trustee and supervised both the table tennis and short mat bowls groups, helping to develop both with his great deal of expertise.

As we look to the future, we need to improve other areas of the building to keep it in good order, continue to try to attract as many villagers as possible to use our facilities and develop the use of the Yorke Room as a pleasant, low-cost meeting space. All of this is only possible with the effort and determination of my fellow Trustees, who work conscientiously to maintain the building, provide events, and manage the finances effectively. For their continued and tireless support, I thank them wholeheartedly.

Ann Taylor  
Chairperson  
March 2024