

Report of Chairperson of the Hellifield Institute Trustees for Annual General Meeting April 2025

The Trustees had two main goals for 2024, which were to ensure all our facilities were being used regularly and to recoup the overspend on our budget. It is pleasing to report that our reserve is now compliant with our Financial Management Statement and that the usage of both the Main Hall and Yorke Room has increased. The Yorke Room is still underutilised and this will be an area for development in the next 5 years. However, it has been praised by users; the Helliarts group contributed to display boards, which are gradually filling with pieces of artwork, it has been a warm, welcoming space for Helligames, Helligames, Mothers' Union, the Book Club and the Craft Group. The Parish Council and Badger Group book it for regular meetings and The Little Beauty Room had adopted it as a treatment space. The Community Police have held regular surgeries and the Community Speedwatch Team have used it for training and meeting, which also demonstrate the benefit of a community hub. Of course, it has provided the storage that was desperately required to clear the building of chairs and tables.

Thanks are due to our loyal supporters, volunteers and group organisers, who help to keep the Institute vibrant and tidy. Janet Lambert has increased her hours and support to ensure everything is kept clean. We have also benefitted from the voluntary help her husband provides. Janette Clarke continues to deal with our payroll and Andrew Crabtree again provided external scrutiny of our finances. The Coffee Morning helpers have stepped up admirably to cover the extra dates and enable us to host a 'get together' every week, which we gather is greatly valued by many of our single residents.

Messy Monkeys and the Pulmonary Clinic have continued as commercial hirers and have been joined by The Little Beauty Salon, as well as a few ad hoc business lettings. These all provide valuable income and often attract new users from the village.

The Beer Festival coped admirably with the loss of the Yorke Room for the keg storage area and reported record numbers. Apart from their hire fees, they help us by demonstrating the benefits of the Institute and this year, we were the recipients of a very generous donation. Shortly after the Beer Festival, the Institute housed Stanfest for the first time. After a lot of thought and effort, Jane and Ian Gray managed to use our spaces creatively to put on an amazing event that showcased a huge variety of village talent!

In terms of events, 2024 provided two spectacular shows for the Village. The 'Pirates of Penzance' was a brave production for the Helligames, which exceeded everyone's expectations in many ways. Not only did some members of Thursday's audience want tickets for another performance, but we had record ticket sales and the singers received absolute acclaim! Our Christmas Show, written by Audrey Edwards, was similarly successful and brought a great deal of joy to the attendees. The Trustees cannot thank the participants

enough for the effort they put into these events to help raise funds for the Institute. Whilst on the theme of Christmas, the Christmas Light Up, organised by the Parish Council and WI, was well attended; refreshments in the Main Hall were a must after standing outside on such a chilly night. Our final, complementary Secret Santa Coffee Morning attracted 75 attendees- a record number! It was a lovely way to end the year and thank our regular supporters.

The closure of the Black Horse has impacted greatly on our community, and we hope to see it open again soon. However, a spin off has been Mik Cardus and Ian Ludlum Brown's Disco Nights! These were very well received, with lots of great music and amazing fancy dress costumes! The funds raised have been donated to our next planned project: the refurbishment of the toilets to provide improved accessibility. It is intended to run these evenings regularly through 2025.

We have been fortunate to recruit two new Trustees for 2025, Mark Winter and David Shepley. It is likely that Dave Clements and I will move out of the village in 2025 and, therefore, will resign our roles as Trustees. It has given me great pleasure to interact with the Institute community and fellow Trustees. I can only praise my fellow Trustees for their continued effort and enthusiasm for maintaining the Institute as a key community resource.

Ann Taylor
Chairperson
April 2025