

Hellifield Institute

Report of the Chair of Trustees at the 2020 Annual Meeting

Throughout 2019, the Institute continued to fulfil its role as Hellifield's Village Hall.

The Trustees welcomed Heather Leak and Kenneth Leak to their number during the year. Peter Bolton and Sheila Swinbank stepped down from their roles as Trustees in August 2019 and November 2019 respectively. Susan Emsley steps down at the close of this Annual Meeting. Andrew Crabtree was re-elected Chairman of Trustees at the 2019 Annual Meeting and has offered himself for re-election at the 2020 meeting.

The Trustees would like to formally thank Peter and Sue for their hard work during their time as Trustees – in particular, Peter for his role in handling the substantial issues surrounding the storm damage suffered by the Hall in October 2018, and Sue for her continued administrative role in documenting the Trustees' meetings, running the Coffee Morning Rotas, and keeping our Facebook page updated. I would also like to specifically place on record the thanks of all Trustees and Village Hall users, past and present, for the more than 20 years-service Sheila gave to the Village Hall. As well as being the Booking Secretary, she also spent a lot of time over the years, opening up for users, running coffee mornings, catering and, well, anything that needed doing. We will strive to build on her legacy.

Regrettably, the Committee have been unable to make any progress in encouraging villagers from the 30-60 age-group to join them in the running of the Hall, but will keep this in mind as a longer-term objective.

As at the close of the 2020 Annual Meeting, the Trustees comprise Andrew Crabtree, Karen Dunwoodie, Richard Brown, Ann Taylor, David Clements, Heather Leak and Kenneth Leak. Recently, Jennifer Darling has joined the wider Committee. The maximum number of Trustees holding office at any one time remains at eight, as per our Constitution. The Trustees/Committee met formally on six occasions during the year, and continued to meet and liaise regularly on an informal basis.

The Committee continues to operate various fund-raising activities in order to support the charging structure for room hire. The Committee believes that hire charges should be set at a level that encourages the use of the building by villagers, and so seek to augment charges by alternative sources of income. It is more than six years since hire charges were last raised, and during the intervening period costs have risen - so the Trustees have succeeded in this respect so far. The 200 Club draw continues to make a significant contribution to our fund-raising. As ever, the Christmas Entertainment evening was a resounding success, both financially and socially, and our thanks are due to Sheila and Chris Kershaw for producing the "Show" part of the evening and, as ever, to "Ian & Jane" for their continued support of this event, and also to all the other volunteers who helped make this evening a success. The Trustees continue to run one coffee morning per month as a fund-raiser for the Institute itself.

Projects concluded during 2019 include the re-decoration the Main Hall, completion of the installation of LED lighting in the Main Hall, and replacement of the flooring in the Entrance Foyer. We also took up the rubberised play surface in the back yard, and were pleasantly surprised that the underlying tarmacadam surface was in reasonably good condition and did not need replacing.

There are currently no large-scale projects planned for 2020. However, we do anticipate some level of “capital” expenditure in augmenting our crockery stocks, which are insufficient to cover “full attendance” events such as the Christmas Entertainment Evening.

Coffee Mornings were held on virtually every Saturday of 2019, run by (predominantly) village organisations for their own fund-raising purposes. Informal sports groups (Table Tennis, Badminton and Indoor Bowls) use the institute on Monday evenings, Tuesday evenings, and Wednesday mornings respectively. Other regular users have included Hellifield Women’s Institute, St Aidan’s Mothers’ Union, Messy Church, the Cardio-respiratory Group, North Craven Flower Club, the Caving Club, Hellifield Allotments and Gardens Association, Hellifield Primary School, Hellifield Herald Village Magazine, Hellifield Parish Council and Craven District Council for polling and other purposes.

The building was increasingly used for private functions such as family parties, and also for small-scale commercial enterprises such as Pilates classes and, for the first time, an Antiques Valuation service. We were also pleased to welcome, for the second time, the annual Hellifield Beer Festival held over two afternoons and evenings in June, and we are delighted that this is to be repeated in 2020.

Furthering their mission to encourage the use of the building, the Committee continued with its entertainment programme. Events in 2019 included a musical concert by a nationally-known musician and a Race Night, as well as the usual Christmas Entertainment evening.

The Committee have continued to be active in marketing the Institute’s services with further development of the Website, Facebook, a regular column and articles in the Village Magazine, and email circulars.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their continued perseverance in developing the Institute/Village Hall’s offering, in maintaining and protecting the building’s facilities, in ensuring that the Charity’s business is conducted in a timely and professional manner, and in ensuring that its financial footing remains sound. It is a very hands-on role, and there have continued to be great demands on their private time, but all have responded willingly.

Andrew Crabtree- Chair of Trustees - 5 March 2020