

# **Husthwaite Village Hall AGM**

**23rd October 2018**

## **Co-Chair Report**

The Village Hall is a charity in trust for the Parish of Husthwaite by its elected members. The hall is used for meetings, clubs, social events and other forms of recreation and leisure activities. Our purpose is solely to provide a facility where people can come together and improve the conditions for our rural community.

This year, once again, the Village Hall has played host to a wide variety of events, clubs and social activities. The Events Team have excelled themselves this year, organising an events program that has been both varied and creative; from ongoing favourites such as the Burns Supper, Movie Sing-A-Long and Wine Tasting to some new ventures; Comedy, Pottery, Arts & Crafts and of course, many thanks to Richard Wood, for the revival of the Village Panto. Events, together with the quarterly markets, ATC, Film Club and Pop Up Pub, continue to be a key driver of funds for the hall. These funds are essential for covering the cost and maintenance of our beautiful facility. However, raising sufficient funds also plays another and more important role, which is to enable us to provide activities and events that are subsidised or free to all. The free summer and Christmas parties are examples of this, as are subsidised hall hire for new start up clubs and charity activities. We are always open to new ideas for activities, which may have either wide or limited appeal. If it provides further inclusion of a broader community, then we believe it is very worthwhile.

The village hall committee recognises the need to become better connected with other community groups in our village; this was a strong part of our ethos and commitment at the beginning of this year. As such, we are very happy to announce our partnership with the Parish Church and the launch of the 100 Club. This connection with other groups is something we will continue to work on in the coming year.

Of course, none of the many events and activities would happen if it were not for all our volunteers. There are far too many to mention but they all know who they are and the involvement of new volunteers is key to the continued success of the hall. From members of the committee, those providing home baked goods for markets and cafes, to those giving their time to the upkeep of the hall and its surrounding area. A big thank you to all. Volunteers are always widely appreciated and welcomed, as a whole array of skills are required for the hall to continue to be run well.

I mentioned the Village panto earlier, revived after four years by Richard Wood. It proved to be a huge success, in spite of the intervention of the worst snow many of us could remember. The panto is a great example of volunteers working together, selflessly and in harmony. Over forty volunteers gave up their time both in front and back of stage to make the panto the community success it was. It has also served to fuel interest in creating a broader programme of local drama activities, so watch this space!

Our thanks also to Husthwaite Parish Council for its continued support of both the hall and the village as a whole. Keeping us updated on all issues from the emptying of bins to proposed building sites and issues such as Emergency Planning. Thanks also to the Village Trust for supporting some of our subsidised events with the welcome of additional funds.

Both the web site, Newsletter and The Link continue to keep us up to date with what's going on in our village. Both Lawrie Hill and Jan Coulthard respectively, have our thanks for continuing to spread the word about what's happening in Husthwaite and what a great place it is to live.

So, to the forthcoming year. Our focus continues to be the needs of the community and how the hall can contribute to this. By keeping the hall in good repair we enable the provision of a good place for groups and individuals to meet. This also plays a large part in the hall attracting groups outside the village to use our facility for their own needs for which we have seen some success this year. Replacement of the fascia boards was a key example of where we need to ensure the fabric of the building is continually assessed, planned and funded on an ongoing basis. In addition, we are currently working on an assessment of our storage needs. Growth of the number of clubs and activities

has meant storage is very tight. We hope to find a solution for this over the coming year. Which brings me to one further thank you. For this ongoing assessment of our maintenance needs, we must thank John Ovenston for giving his time and expertise.

Both Lynn and myself would like to thank our colleagues on the Village hall committee for their continued support. Thanks also to the members of the Events committee who continue to make sure that the appeal of the village hall and indeed the village of Husthwaite meets our website tag line of “The best village in Yorkshire!”

A final thank you to everyone who supports our hall, not only by volunteering, but by attending and supporting our varied events. Without that support we would be unable to plan for the future, not only of the hall, but of the wellbeing of the village itself and the individuals that have chosen to live here and in our surrounding community.

Thank you.

Lynn Colton and Sheila Mowatt

Co Chairpersons

Husthwaite Village Hall