

Waterhouses Community Association
Annual Report 2010-2011.

We have had another successful year at the hall, for which we have to thank those who have helped achieve this – the Committee, the Volunteers and everyone who has come along and supported our activities.

Unfortunately after the AGM last year, Jane Sendall was not able to continue as Secretary due to work commitments, and we lost her as a Committee Member in October for the same reason. We would like to thank Jane for her contribution to the hall. I (Angela Collinson) took up the post on a temporary basis until a permanent one could be confirmed.

We also lost Mrs Edith Spence as a key holder, and we would like to thank her very much for her help over the years.

Projects:

Hedley Hill Terrace Play Area

What a roller coast year we had!

Having had our bid to the Playbuilder Scheme approved, a change in Government put the Scheme on hold as part of their Financial Review. We were then told that the Scheme had been cancelled, and the Council arranged a meeting with us to discuss how we could proceed with the funding. Consequently our Chairman submitted an application to the Changing Spaces Scheme.

Then the good news came that the Playbuilder Scheme had in fact only been on hold and that our project would be going ahead. A last consultation was held at the hall on 14th March to present the 3 options, and the preferred one will go ahead after April. The Area Action Partnership has agreed to fund the cost of the improvement to the access – which is £10000. A further £3000 will be required sometime in the future for picnic tables, information boards etc.

The latest update is that work is imminent (a container has been seen on the site!) and an Opening Ceremony is planned for August 4th, 2-4pm. The

total cost of this project is £52000, and we hope that it will be a successful improvement to Waterhouses.

Hall Garden

Following a complaint received from a concerned resident about the area behind the hall, we immediately arranged for repairs to the small playground to be carried out and for a tidy up of the raised beds. We have also funded replacement seating with 3 sturdier and long lasting (hopefully) benches.

A grant application to the Windmill Fund to make improvements to the hall frontage was declined as we had too much in our reserves. It was decided that the hall would fund the project itself as the garden was looking very untidy. The results speak for itself, as we now have a very tidy frontage which will require minimal upkeep. We hope you will agree that it was money well spent. We must thank Chris Ruskin, Andrew Brown and Alan Jackson for their efforts with this project.

Hall Activities

These continue to play the major part of the Association's aim to benefit the local community, and subsequently we successfully applied and received a grant from the council to help fund the hall. A new requirement of this grant is that we carry out a full Risk Assessment of the hall and also have a comprehensive Vulnerable Adults and Children's Policy. Both were completed and included into the hall's constitution.

Beryl joined the Events Committee and was made very welcome. Thank you Beryl.

The extreme weather in November and December put a damper on a lot of events (there was no Christmas tree up this year) - but most were put on at later date.

Continued regular activities include the Yoga, the Drop In (thanks to Rhona), Tai Chi, Cinema Club (thanks to Andrew and Doug), Social Cub,

Family Nights (thanks to Kim & Sandra), Floorball, Wine Club, Summer and Christmas Fairs.

Unfortunately the keep Fit for the Over 50's stopped as attendance was low.

We re-started the Toddler Group (thanks go to Fiona Roberts for running this) and bought some new equipment. It is being regularly attended. A very kind donation from Councillor John Wilkinson's fund helped towards the equipment.

Other Activities –

The first Village Trip (which was free) went ahead in August and was a resounding success. Lightwater Valley was the venue and thankfully the weather was kind. The aim of the trip was to bring together residents of the village in a group activity. A grant was received from the Durham Council for Voluntary Service towards the cost. The hall also made funds available for a trip for W.C.A. members and volunteers.

The Scarecrow Competition went ahead for the second year and along with the Produce Show was a success.

Other events included a Barn Dance, a Plant Sale, a Gardening Talk, World Champion Vera Selby talking about her Snooker career, 2 Ceilidhs, a Folk Night, a Nearly New Sale, and many more. Some events were very well attended, but sadly others weren't.

Charitable Events – Coffee Mornings were held in aid of McMillan Nurses and Marie Curie. Also a Family Fun Night was handed over to the Beavers and Cubs to run and the takings were donated to assist their fundraising.

Lastly I would like to stress that without the effort put in by our volunteers who are too many to mention all of them by name, we would not be so successful and again I thank them. Of course anyone who would like to become a volunteer is always more than welcome – along with any fresh ideas for activities at the hall!