

## **BWCT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

### **BURLEY IN WHARFEDALE COMMUNITY TRUST CHAIRMANS STATEMENT**

Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust (BWCT), a registered charity, has had another excellent year with a continued increase in membership numbers. Total membership receipts (including donations) were £8198 (2018/19 £8284) with numbers for this year totalling 925 (845). The computerised membership system continues to help with both administration and improved communication to members including a quarterly news letter and increased online collections. Our thanks go to Malcolm Fisher for his assistance with this project. We continue with our popular quarterly prize draw.

In addition to funds obtained from membership the Trust has received significant income from donors including the Waitrose and Coop Community funds, Barclays Bank, Burley Education Trust, Ilkley Round Table and Burley Parish Council. Further funds have been received from the Coop towards the Youthquake initiative since the year end and we anticipate more being received from this source in 2020. As a result the Trust now has substantial general purpose funds for use in the village (over £62,000). The Trustees are well aware that these funds need to be spent wisely and where possible with the cooperation and assistance of other village organizations. Some of the ideas for expenditure are outlined below. The Trust also continues to hold specific funds set aside for the zip wire in Grange Park with progress now being made with the Parish Council on its final location together with additional play equipment for 6 to 12 year olds.

This year the Duck Race in June was again a resounding success. Good weather encouraged another excellent turnout and sale of ducks. After the race, Teas in the Park on the Village Green (organized by the Guides) attracted many from the village, as well as a number of visitors. Our thanks must go to all the organizers of both events. This year the proceeds from the ticket sales again benefitted both the Trust and the Scouts and Guides funds.

The Christmas Lights and Market in December 2019 has also proved to be a great village success with even more features and displays (especially in the park) and a splendid village attendance for the switch on ceremony carried out by one of our own long serving trustees Sylvia Tilford. This year the Christmas Market organization was again coordinated by the Trust (2018 was the first time). Our thanks go to Tom Sumner and his group of volunteers, the Parish Council, Nick Turnbull, Mike Parker, Jan Lepley and all the local businesses and individuals for ensuring that the lights continue to be an annual village attraction over Christmas and the New Year. We must also thank the two school choirs, the Ukelele Jammers, and the Performance Dance School for their contributions.

We have continued (together with the Parish Council) to fund the hanging baskets on the lamp posts and in the Pudding Tree garden and the flower tubs in the village in 2019. This adds colour to Burley in the summer months and has encouraged many businesses to provide baskets of their own to add to the display. In addition Ghyll Royd school help maintain the flower tubs around the War Memorial.

The Trust has continued to be very involved with maintaining the grounds and pavilion and improving the facilities at Scalebor Park during 2018/19. Although the 5-year maintenance contract with Greenbelt ended in October 2018 we are now contracted on a regular annual basis until March 2020. It is hoped that we will have a new contract in place by April this year. The grounds and pitches at Scalebor are maintained superbly on our behalf by John Hardisty, a local landscape contractor. We have also undertaken essential maintenance work on the pavilion, pavilion car park and fencing as necessary. Annual maintenance on the playing fields drainage was undertaken in April 2019 (joint funding with Burley Trojans Junior football club). The playing conditions continue to be the best in the village for both junior football and cricket teams (who use the all weather pitch).

We have continued to maintain the Fountain of Life, Corn Mill Pond, Pudding Tree and Jubilee gardens and Burley Gardeners continued their help with improved planting of some of these facilities. The vegetation around the pond has been regularly kept tidy to improve the facility for the public although full access cannot be achieved due to Health and Safety issues. We also fund and support the village web site which keeps us all up to date with events in the village and provides Burley with an excellent advertising platform and a gallery of local photographs. Our thanks again go to Malcolm Fisher and the website committee for their help in maintaining and continually improving this feature. The website is well used by village residents and organisations (including the Festival) with both a village and library diary for events and meetings. The site is also used to host other village organisations' web pages. Work on updating this website to cater for better access and social media requirements is currently in progress.

As stated above our funds have been boosted significantly in the year by record membership and Community funding. We hope to continue to put these funds to good use over the next year by assisting in various aspects of youth provision , sports facilities, zip wire, skate park, better walking access for pushchairs/wheelchairs in and around the village, a village information board, improving the Roundhouse Garden and surrounds. The Trust is happy to help facilitate funding of acceptable local projects in the village usually on a partnership basis.

This past year we have continued to support the Burley Summer Festival, provided funds to the Scouts and Guides from the Duck Race proceeds and Teas in the Park and given a short term loan for final completion of their new HQ. We have also helped the Bowls Club with funding for their new pavilion, Walkers are Welcome (better and safer footpath access), Cricket club (new nets), Plastic Free Burley, Junior cricket and football (at Scalebor).

One of our main new initiatives this year has been Youthquake aimed at improving youth provision facilities in the village for secondary school age pupils and upwards . This was initiated by Loraine Hughes, one of our trustees, with a group of local resident young people with key village stakeholders including The District and Parish Councils, Bradford Youth Services, schools and churches. Initially this has provided a 2 hour session for 11/14 year olds in the Queens Hall each Wednesday. We are also working with the village library to launch an after school homework club.

It is hoped to extend this at some stage to incorporate 14/19 year olds and we are also gauging interest in a monthly support event such as networking or business support for 18/25 year olds. An essential element of these initiatives is volunteers and we start 2020 with free training for support volunteers tomorrow (8<sup>th</sup> January) including DBS checks. Please contact Loraine if you are interested.

My thanks go out to all the members of the Trust for their membership contributions and donations, local businesses and organizations, the Parish Council for their continued help in funding several projects and activities, Tim Haskins for auditing our accounts and lastly my fellow Trustees for all their hard work over the past year which is done on an entirely voluntary basis. They have contributed significantly to the continued success of the Trust as a valuable village charity.

Duncan Ault Chairman  
Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2020