

BWCT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2018

BURLEY IN WHARFEDALE COMMUNITY TRUST CHAIRMANS STATEMENT

Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust (BWCT), a registered charity, has had another excellent year with considerably increased membership numbers. Total membership receipts were £7484 (2016/17 £7061) with numbers for this year totalling 775. Some of these memberships were received after the year end. The membership system was computerised this year which has improved communication to members with a new e- bulletin and increased our online collections: our thanks go to Malcolm Fisher for his assistance with this project. We continue with our popular quarterly draw.

In addition to funds obtained from membership the Trust has received income from several anonymous donors for different projects, additional membership donations, the Waitrose and the Coop Community funds and from the Salem Church. It is anticipated that further funds will be received from Waitrose and the Coop in 2018. This will help with this years projects including completion of phase 2 of the playground project (zip wire) improvements to the Round House and its surrounds and other suitable activities.

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 Scouts and 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 benefitted both the Trust and Scouts and Guides

The Christmas lights in 2017 have also proved to be a great village success with even more features and displays and a splendid village attendance for the switch on ceremony carried out by Jack Tordoff. Our thanks go to Tom Sumner, his group of volunteers, the Parish Council, Burley and District Chamber of Trade, Nick Turnbull and all the businesses and individuals for ensuring that they continue to be an annual village attraction over Christmas and the New Year. We must also thank the two village choirs and the Ukelele Jammers for their superb entertainment.

This year 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. This adds colour to the village in the summer months and has encouraged several businesses to provide baskets of their own to add to the display.

The Trust has continued to be very involved with maintaining the grounds and pavilion and improving the facilities at Scalebor Park during 2016/17. BWCT entered into a 5 year maintenance contract with Greenbelt (the company responsible for the Scalebor grounds) in October 2013 to maintain the grounds and pitches at Scalebor and this continues to be a success with the help of John Hardisty, a local landscape contractor. We have also undertaken essential maintenance work on the pavilion as necessary.

In 2014 the Trust undertook a major project to improve the drainage of the playing field which was jointly funded by Burley Trojans Junior football club and BWCT. Additional jointly funded annual maintenance was carried out in April 2017 in order to preserve this investment and to improve the standard of the playing field for the footballers, cricketers, Scalebor and Burley residents.

We have also helped with funding a new all weather cricket pitch at Scalebor Park (jointly with the Cricket Club) specifically for the provision of junior cricket.

We have continued to maintain the Fountain of Life, Corn Mill Pond, Pudding Tree and Jubilee gardens, the Round House and their surrounds during 2017. 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 up to date with events in the village and provides Burley with an excellent advertising platform. Our thanks again go to Malcolm Fisher and the web site committee for their help in maintaining and continually improving this feature. The web site is well used by village residents and organizations (including the Festival) with both a village and library diary for events and meetings. The site is also used to host other village organizations' web pages including the Community Library, Classic Car Show, Dementia Group, Probus, Walkers are Welcome and Burley Trojans.

The Trust is happy to help facilitate funding of acceptable local projects in the village. This year we continued to support the Burley Summer Festival and provided funds to the Scouts and Guides from the Duck Race and Teas in the Park. We have also helped the Cricket Club (artificial pitch), Walkers are Welcome, Dementia Group and Hand Bell ringers.

This year the Trust as a registered Charity has continued to help facilitate the fundraising efforts for the new Playground in Grange Park which has been promoted by Rachael Robinson. Over the past 2 years over £64000 has been raised by Rachael and her activities and channelled through the Trust. Additional funds were raised and the project was managed by Burley Parish Council. Phase 1 of the project was completed in May 2017 and is proving to be very popular with younger children. Phase 2 includes provision of exercise equipment (installed in November 2017), an outdoor table tennis table and a zip wire. These latter two facilities are awaiting a final decision on their location and should be available by next summer.

My thanks go out to all the members of the Trust for their contributions and donations, local businesses and organizations, the Parish Council for their continued help in funding several projects and activities, Phil McPhail for auditing our accounts and submitting our gift aid return and lastly my fellow Trustees for all their hard work over the past year which is done on an entirely voluntary basis. I would especially like to thank John Sparshatt and John Grimshaw, long standing Trustees who resigned during the year due to other commitments. They have contributed significantly to the continued success of the Trust as a valuable village charity.

Duncan Ault Chairman BWCT January 2018

