



Northowram Scarecrow Festival

Annual General Meeting Notes

Tuesday 15th September 2015

Northowram Club

1. Chair's Report

Welcome & Introductions

The Chairman welcomed all those attending this, the 4th Annual General Meeting of the Scarecrow Committee; in particular those put forward for membership. Introductions were made with committee members outlining their role on the committee (see list below).

Chair's report

The Chair outlined another successful Scarecrow Event this year, despite the terrible weather for the first half of the 3 day weekend. Once the weather picked up the weekend turned around and was a great success with lots of people visiting the village and enjoying the activities on offer. He thanked all those who had made such sterling efforts to ensure the success of the event, not least being the Ladies of the Methodist Church who provided crafts and games for children particularly on Saturday when the school did not open for children's games as planned. Sure Start also put on a Build a Scarecrow activity on Saturday and this indoor event attracted over 50 under fives and was pronounced a great success.

The Chair outlined the process for new members, nominations to be taken at the meeting and roles and responsibilities to be allocated at the next ordinary meeting in October. He stated that it has been an honour to be Chair and his willingness to continue in the role as long as required. Special thanks went to Sally Garrett as Founder Member.

2. Financial Report

The Joint Treasurer presented the financial report which had been signed off by Sutcliffe & Riley Chartered Accountants of Halifax . The main items to note are:-

- The 4th Northowram Scarecrow Festival raised £3,521.93;
- The opening balance (as at 17/9/14) was £3,570 (see AGM notes 2014);
- Expenditure throughout the year totalled £1638.51;
- Closing balance (as at 31/7/2015) is £5,453.42.

A new fixed 'year end' date has been set for 31st July annually. This means that funding provided to local projects will not appear in this year's accounts as bids had not been finalised until after that date. This year we have funded five projects amounting to a total of £2,478; They are:-

- Heywood URC Graveyard Tidy-up;
- St Matthew's Church Quiet Garden;
- St Matthew's Church Kitchen Refurbishment;

- Northowram Christmas Lights project;
- Northowram website administration & maintenance.

The accounts are being independently audited by Accountant, Angela Wright FMAAT. The detailed financial report will be posted on www.northowram.org/scarecrow

3. Committee Membership

Julie Briscoe is the only outgoing member this year. Special thanks were extended to her for her excellent work on Children's games over the last two years.

Nomination forms were circulated (forms available to download at www.northowram.org) due to outgoing members and vacant seats the committee is open to new members. Nominations were collected and new members will be voted on at the next ordinary meeting on 13th October 2015. Roles and responsibilities will also be allocated at that meeting (see list below).

4. Suggestions for future spending & activities

A lot of suggestions have been received about the running of the event and where possible those will be incorporated into future events. The main ones are:-

- A letter box for the Information Caravan to be used when the caravan is not open for registration forms or completed trails;
- Develop the 'Street Market' theme to run alongside the event;
- Change the name of the toddler trail to children's or kiddies trail and change the format of that trail to make it more interactive;
- Have a headline activity for each day – i.e. Teddy's Bears picnic;
- Publish the programme in advance of event;

Last year suggestions made were developed and some were a great success and will be carried forward for future events. A few of these were:-

- The Boundary Fun Run was a great success with over 30 runners taking part. Ian Marshall will be joining the committee to lead on future Boundary Runs and this is another good example of community groups working together.
- The 'Public Choice' vote for best scarecrow was very popular and will definitely be continued in future years. This year the Public Choice winner was the same as the Judges Choice thereby validating the whole process.
- It was suggested people take in their scarecrows at night during the festival to avoid damage and this worked really well with no damage reported this year. One entry, The Owl & the Pussycat on Bradford Road, was made in a wheelbarrow to allow for this and it was agreed this was a very inventive idea.

5. Open to floor for questions

The Methodist Church are happy to continue and do more of the same next year.

Everyone agreed everything else was covered on the agenda and the 2015 AGM was closed.

Committee members September 2014 – September 2015:

Name	Role/Group Represented
Andy Garrett	Chair
Sally Garrett	Founder member
Ann-Marie Luther	Joint Treasurer
Molly Varley	Joint Treasurer/St Mathew's Church
Richard Priestley	Vice Chair
Alison (MacGrath) Priestley	Secretary
Helen Silson	Northowram News (Press releases)
Sheila Hewitt	Shoulder of Mutton
Peter Caffrey	Local Authority Link
Steve Amos	Risk Assessment/Health & Safety
Jan Burrell	Northowram Club
Lynn Jagger	Riding School
Julie Briscoe	Children's Games & School Parent Link
David & Rachel Robinson	Robinsons Farm Shop
Karen Manley & Robert Sheard	The Windmill / Jack's Bar
Rebecca Antcliffe & Tony Lewis	The Queen Victoria
Dave Whelan	Boundary Run
Vacant Seat	Northowram Sports & Activities Club
Attending throughout 2014/15	
Andrea & Steve Collingwood	Volunteers
Ian Marshall	Northowram Running Club/Boundary Run

The list of committee members will be updated following the committee meeting on 13 October 2015.

LIST OF MEETING DATES AND VENUES FOR 2015/16

Date, time and venue of committee meetings for 2015/2016:-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 13th October 2015 at 7.30pm at The Shoulder of Mutton • Tuesday 10th November 2015 at 7.30pm at Northowram Club • Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7.30pm at The Shoulder of Mutton • Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7.30pm at Northowram Club • Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.30pm at The Shoulder of Mutton • Tuesday 12th April 2016 at 7.30pm at Northowram Club • Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 7.30pm at The Shoulder of Mutton • Tuesday 26th April 2016 at 7.30pm at Northowram Club • Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.30pm at The Shoulder of Mutton • Tuesday 2nd August 2016 at 7.30 Bids Subgroup meets-Northowram Club • Tuesday 9th August 2016 at 7.30pm at The Shoulder of Mutton
Tuesday 13 th September 2016 at 7.30pm AGM at Northowram Club