

## **Trustee's Report for The Hub: Huntingfield, Heveningham and Ubbeston Village Hall**

The Hub trustees have continued the task of rebuilding after some difficult years. We said goodbye to two valued trustees, Sara and Ken during the year and thank them both for their efforts and contribution. Charlie, our administrator also decided to leave at the end of 2023 leaving the task of running the Hub with the remaining trustees; we thank Charlie for her hard work and for the new systems she built whilst in the role.

These new systems included a new expanded website and greatly improved web presence that help to promote the Hub in online searches. Charlie also implemented a new booking system that improves and automates the process of booking slots and events at the Hub, reducing the administration load. We are now able to take payments online and via Paypal again making payments simpler for our users. The trustees are delighted that our long-term Pilates, Tai Chi and Zumba classes are continuing, as well as welcoming new Pilates and Relaxation activities. Hub brunches have continued successfully and bring in some very helpful funds to support our costs.

It has been a difficult year in some ways as rising prices have increased our running costs and paying wages has depleted our working cash funds. We have several ring-fenced funds that are fully protected and have not been affected by these changes. The financial plan as explained at the last AGM was based on there being a sufficient increase in the usage of the Hub to support these higher costs. I'm sorry to report that this strategy hasn't born fruit and the trustees have decided to return to a near fully voluntary approach to running the Hub (we do still pay for cleaning). We are extremely grateful to all those who help with cleaning, maintenance and opening up, particularly Alex, Brian, Geoff and Jana.

The decision to return to a volunteer approach to running the Hub means we have significantly reduced our outgoings, but this has left the remaining few trustees little time for anything else. We are planning new daytime events and talks as well as hoping to start some more regular classes including Yoga. The Hub has been responsible for the finances of The Hare and Kids Club; both have now been handed over simplifying matters to some extent. We are also reviewing charges for use of the Hub; we think it is reasonable to do this in response to recent inflationary pressures and will be bringing forward proposals a little later in the year.

As already mentioned, the remaining trustees are working hard to keep the Hub going, but desperately need some help, particularly with fundraising activities. If there is anyone in the community who would like to join us, either as trustee or as a volunteer to organise a fun event for the village do please let us know.

Allan, Jane, Jim, Julie & Lauren (Trustees)