

Newsletter Issue 2 January 2020

The trustees and staff at HWYCA would like to wish all those connected with the Community Centre our best wishes and a healthy and happy New Year - especially to all the volunteers who freely give their time to help keep the Centre functioning.

Activities at the Centre are either run by volunteers from the Centre or by organisations hiring rooms at the Centre. This newsletter will concentrate on activities organised by the Centre. Our most popular (but also requiring lots of volunteers) is the **"Pop Inn"** held on a Tuesday lunchtime. A meal is served with a several choices on the menu. Many of the people attending also take part in a raffle with a good range of prizes. Transport to the Centre can be arranged for those requiring it. This is immediately followed by a **Bingo Session** which also is very popular with the option of a cup of tea afterwards. You are welcome to attend either or both.

On Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons we hold **"Surfer" sessions** where you can learn how to use your computer, tablet or smart phone. There are half hour sessions with your own very patient volunteer. Many senior citizens have found that with very little knowledge and practice, they can be in contact with family and friends throughout the world.

With these activities we aim to help reduce **social isolation** in the area. Our other main activity is with **young people with our Community Ties programme**. We will give more details of this in a future newsletter. We also hope to include details of the other organisations who hold activities here. If these organisations provide very minimal details of what you do, when and who will benefit, we will try to include in future newsletters. Hopefully there will be fuller details on the notice board in the Centre.

Rooms at the Centre can be hired for parties or other events. For details of any of these activities please contact the Centre.

Whilst volunteers play a large part in running the above activities we do need to raise a considerable amount of money to maintain the building and pay the few staff we need to manage the Centre. We also have unavoidable overheads such as Electricity, Telephone etc. We are very grateful for the grant support from the Haxby Town and Wigginton Parish Councils mainly towards youth work. We have recently been successful in obtaining grants for £500 from the Norman Collinson Charitable Trust for repairs to the roof and £470 from the Leeds Building Society for a replacement fridge freezer. Our annual accounts are available at the Centre and on the Website.

Our two main fundraising activities are selling refreshments, books and bric a brac at St Crux hall in York and opening the Centre for refreshments on the 3 days of the Haxby Scarecrow festival. Any help with donations or volunteering at these events is most welcome. Amounts raised from both these events are subject to the weather and any other suggestions for raising money would be most welcome.

More help: Whilst we desperately need to raise money, having the right people to run the organisation is probably more important. As explained in the AGM minutes (available from the Centre or our Website) we are in urgent need of a new Chairman and Treasurer together with additional Trustees. These are vital voluntary positions to enable the Association to function properly. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping to run the Association please contact the Centre. These positions are ideally suited to recent retirees who live locally and who would like to give something back to the Community. Equally for people still in employment, voluntary work can be a very valuable addition to your CV.

We are very sad to have to report the death, since our last newsletter, of Clive Hodsdon, one of our "Surfer" Mentors. Please let us know if you have information you would like to share about past members or users of the Centre.