

Denholme Community Centre : Annual Review 2024-25

Overview of the Year

This year has seen the Centre continue to develop and widen the range of activities on offer. Our regular groups and activities continue and thrive for the most part, but we have been able to add widen our appeal and attract several new users.

The community centre continues to provide accommodation for a community-run library offering a valued service to families in our village. The library offers activities for children, as well as a welcoming space for people to drop in. We also have a thriving Book Club meeting monthly, and a writers' group meeting weekly. Each year the writers' group publishes collections of poetry and prose which are for sale on Amazon.

The year has seen some staff changes. As well as a local volunteer/trustee filling the role of Centre Coordinator, we have also appointed a caretaker. Volunteers remain the heart of our 'staff team', providing catering, centre maintenance, events management and financial management.

The Trustees remain stable and committed, and offer invaluable expertise in forward planning, finance, fundraising and events management. Under their guidance, we have continued to extend and strengthen building on our five-star food hygiene rating which enables us to offer food and drinks to support our activities. Our alcohol licence has proved popular, and sales of food and drink have become a key element in our revenue.

We continue to fund raise for a replacement boiler, though we have made progress and are exploring all available funding streams.

Our new upstairs tenant, an established local children's dance school who moved in in February 2024, has been a valuable asset as well as a key element in our revenue stream.

Challenges certainly remain, especially in terms of revenue from room hire, but the centre remains committed to offering a high level of service and opportunity to local people. We recognise our crucial role in reducing loneliness and enhancing social contact between residents.

Community Involvement and Communication

Many activities taking place within the community centre are community led and rely on the resources of local volunteers. We pride ourselves on our communication with, and support for, these volunteers and, where possible, we act promptly on the feedback that they give us.

Over the last year, we have continued to build links we have with other groups in the village. We have provided facilities, free of charge, to the Neighbourhood Watch group, who operate a contact point where people can report police and council issues. We have also

worked with the Children's Gala committee, and we participated in the 2024 Gala where we held a fundraising tombola.

We have also maintained links with local businesses; the Coop, the pharmacy and the post office as well as the local restaurant who provide the meals for our Lunch Club.

Followers to our dedicated Facebook page continue to rise. Along with our contributions to other local social media channels, this enables us to keep the local community informed of our activities. We post regular promotional material advertising our programme of activities (usually a dozen or more posts a week) and welcome comments, suggestions and feedback through these channels. And for those who prefer more traditional methods, we have leaflets, noticeboards and an open door where they can come and share their thoughts with us.

Making A Difference

Denholme has one of the highest proportions of elderly residents within the whole of the Bradford MDC area and thus a large number of our regular activities and groups have evolved to support older people. The Lunch Club offers what can be a rare opportunity to meet and socialise with others. In response to requests from users we have sought to open during bank holidays to help people feel less isolated from their peers.

Opening as a "Warm Space" last year as part of the government backed scheme also enabled us to reach out to isolated individuals and families, and we have developed this into a regular Wednesday morning breakfast event. This is extremely popular, a valued social event offering drinks, toast, crumpets and breakfast sandwiches at a low cost

Although our services to the elderly are vital, during the course of the year our expanded events programme has enabled us to appeal to other demographic groups. In part this has been in response to the need to diversify our income, but we also want to ensure we attract new user groups to the centre, who may not previously have participated.

New Activities

We worked with the Town Council to provide a lively Christmas event in 2024 where we were able to sell alcohol as well as other refreshments such as hot chocolate, mince pies, mulled wine and other festive food.

We opened the centre to the community on Remembrance Day 2024 with pie and peas and hot drinks for sale.

Since the end of last year we have been planning a lively and diverse programme of social events, mainly to take place at weekends when the centre tended to be underused. This is no longer the case, with events filling most of the spots. These include farmers markets and indoor car boot sales, seasonal events such as Valentine's Day, spring sales, Mothers' Day afternoon tea, pumpkin carving, Halloween Night, a Christmas Market and a children's

Christmas card competition, as well as Bingo, Quiz Nights, a community café, Ladies Nights, and afternoon tea-dances.

We have also worked hard to promote the Centre as an attractive venue for hire, for events such as birthday parties and wedding anniversaries.

In the coming year we intend to build on this success by extending the range of activities offered. Much of this will be experimental, but early signs are good. Our volunteers are qualified in food hygiene so we are able to offer a range of catering options to support events. The ideas under consideration include:

- More seasonal events such as Easter and Christmas, Halloween, Christmas wreath-making
- Music, e.g. Northern Soul, themed discos, Reggae Night
- Continue to support events linked to the wider community activity, e.g. summer party at the Gala, social event on Remembrance Day, Christmas lights switch on in collaboration with Denholme Town Council
- Celebrate national events, e.g.
- Psychic Night
- Cocktail Night
- Private hires for birthday parties, weddings, even funerals

The Challenges

Once again, and in common with all our users and other public sector providers, the centre has been affected by rising running costs, in particular the cost of heating and lighting. Our energy bills have been better controlled this year due to a much more detailed understanding of our ongoing costs and negotiating better tariffs with suppliers. Even so, we have an old building and maintenance costs are inevitably high.

Securing sufficient revenue will always be a challenge, but we have plans to diversify our earned income. We had hoped to bring in £1000 a month from earned income in 2024-25, but have achieved around £1800, well in excess of our expectations. We are optimistic and confident in our approach, and hope to be less reliant on grants, though we will continue to explore potential sources of external funding to help offset one-off costs.

The Trustees are particularly grateful for the financial support provided by Denholme Town Council, who awarded us a grant of £10,000 in March 2025 to help with running costs.

Conclusion and Future Plans

- a) We will further boost income by increasing the range of activities on offer at the centre. In particular, we aim to set up a Denholme Lottery, a way of attracting regular monthly income.
- b) We will continue to seek to attract new trustees to join our team to enhance our existing skill set, with a particular emphasis on fundraising

- c) One of our main priorities remains the pressing need to identify funding for a new boiler, without which the Centre will struggle to operate in the long term.
- d) We will look to control cleaning and caretaking costs by paying a local person or a trustee to perform these duties.

We have always welcomed suggestions from residents regarding the sorts of new activities they would welcome in the Centre, and this will continue. Specifically, we will further improve the attractiveness of our centre as a venue for hire as well as enhancing our own events, by making full use of our popular bar as we see this as having huge income-earning potential. We will consider the financial prospects of hiring dedicated bar staff.

We aim to produce a Denholme Directory to promote our own activities as well as those in the wider community, possibly funded by advertising

Our financial situation remains precarious, but we are confident that the measures we have already put in place to understand and control our costs, and our plans to increase earned income in the coming year will enable us to successfully navigate our way through the challenges. Times are hard, and this won't change, but the community centre is needed now as never before, and we are determined to ensure the centre remains viable and sustainable for future generations. We cannot insulate ourselves from the impacts of external cost increases, but we have developed a track record of reacting appropriately, imaginatively, and in a timely manner to maintain a solid foundation for the future.

DMI Community Centre - Year End Accounts
1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025
Profit & Loss Account

2024/25 Income

	2024/2025	2023/2024
Commercial Rents	£ 18,083.00	£ 13,451.00
Community Rents	£ 19,103.00	£ 17,940.00
Casual Rents	£ 2,699.00	£ 2,328.00
Grants & Support	£ 12,400.00	£ 44,629.00
Big Lottery		£ 22,000.00
Bradford Council	£ 2,000.00	
Business/DTC	£ 10,000.00	£ 20,000.00
Other	£ 4,460.00	£ 2,629.00
Events Income	£ 4,641.00	
Bar Profits	£ 13,954.00	
Miscellaneous	£ 6,928.00	£ 5,864.00
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>£ 77,808.00</u>	<u>£ 84,212.00</u>

2024/25 Expenditure

Professional Fees & Licences	£ 5,848.00	£ 14,431.00
Buildings Insurance	£ 1,642.00	
Registration/Membership Fees	£ 150.00	£ 2,273.00
Staff Costs	£ 4,056.00	£ 12,158.00
Building Expenses	£ 58,615.00	£ 57,609.00
Cleaning	£ 2,862.00	£ 4,043.00
Other Services	£ 2,238.00	£ 2,143.00
Consumables	£ 3,987.00	£ 7,560.00
Maintenance	£ 6,300.00	£ 5,808.00
Security	£ 578.00	£ 420.00
Gas & Electric	£ 41,390.00	£ 36,303.00
Water	£ 871.00	£ 943.00
Internet	£ 389.00	£ 389.00
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>£ 64,463.00</u>	<u>£ 72,040.00</u>
Profit/Loss in the year	£ 13,345.00	£ 12,172.00

DMI Community Centre - Year End Accounts
1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025
Balance Sheet

Opening Balance	£	44,562.00	£	32,390.00
Total Income	£	84,212.00	£	84,212.00
Total Expenditure	£	64,463.00	£	72,040.00
Closing Balance	£	64,311.00	£	44,562.00