

Howden-le-Wear Village Friends

Annual Report and Review April 2026

Trustees and Volunteers

As always, we are grateful to our team of trustees and volunteers who continue to provide a quality experience for the three groups within our registered charity (Village Friends, Connect Group and Men's Supper Club).

Over time, both trustees and volunteers have developed specific roles within our teams. As a result, charity leadership and delivery of activities are coordinated and effective. For example, Pam's leadership of food catering is second to none and Diane's IT skills have greatly enhanced entertainment. In addition, we are very grateful to our Village Friends members who step up with tasks such as clearing away and washing up. It makes our lives so much easier! A special thank you goes to Sandra Davies who is always happy to fill a gap if one of our leaders is absent. Thanks also go to those who regularly provide transport for those who need this form of assistance. Additional help with this service would be very much appreciated.

Funding

Trustees have examined our 2025 accounts which were prepared by Jackie (financial manager) and independently verified by Tracey Woods, a retired School Business Manager. Our income was boosted last year by the remainder of two grants (AAP and Believe Housing) as well as by an impressive fundraising effort from Ian Kirkbride. We also received four generous, private donations from members of our Village Friends group. All of this helped us to deliver high quality events and provision for all three groups. In addition, funds raised from raffles and donations at Village Friends "specials" have ensured that we have moved into 2026 with a healthy bank balance.

We would also like to thank the growing number of members who donate raffle prizes to Village Friends. These contributions are proving to be a real boon in terms of supplementing our expenses. Consequently, although we currently don't have financial support from external sources, we are confident that we can continue to provide and subsidise an excellent programme in 2026.

Policy Review

Our annual review of the following policies and procedures was undertaken last month: Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults; Equality and Diversity Policy; Data Protection/ Social Media Policy; Risk Assessments (for drop ins, "specials" and outings). In addition, a Financial Reserves Policy was discussed, agreed and adopted.

(Next review of policies and procedures is scheduled for March 2027.)

Group Membership

The number on our Village Friends register is 54. However, this includes members who are no longer able to attend mainly for health reasons. When this is the case, our leaders maintain contact through phone calls and home visits. We are aware that some Village Friends group members also provide a network of support for those who are temporarily or permanently housebound. This is a valuable resource since a friendly visit, phone call or text can bring cheer to someone's day.

Regular attendees at drop ins and "specials " numbers 42 , which means that we are at Village Hall capacity. Membership of our Connect Group currently numbers 29. Men' Supper Club numbers now stand at 25, following the welcoming of recent additions to this group.

Events and Activities

We hope that Village Friends members have enjoyed the full and varied programme of activities throughout 2025 and early 2026. These have included a wide range of specials with themed food and home-grown entertainment (many of which have included audience participation!) Our trustees will present a more detailed report on events and activities during the review meeting. This will be followed by an opportunity for written feedback from Village Friends members.

In addition, the Connect Group has delivered a wide ranging and ambitious programme of activities for members. Programmes run on a three-monthly cycle and the team of organisers works hard to ensure that there is something for everyone. For example, a Connect Group monthly lunch club (at the Village Hall) has been introduced this Spring. This has been particularly welcomed by those members who are unable to take part in extended outings and events. The Men's Supper Club is also based at the Village Hall and the atmosphere is always buzzy with good food, conversation, quizzes and games. We genuinely feel that we have provided a venue and setting which fills a gap for men in the village.

As a final point, we think we can be proud of all that we offer especially in our aim to foster a caring ethos of friendship and support. We are confident that this will continue in the coming year and beyond.

Howden-le-Wear Village Friends

Accounts September 2024 to 31st December 2025

Income

Raffles	3359.56
Donations	4321.52
Christmas Fair	1002.20
Trip and Activity Tickets	3148.75
Connect Group	1557.30
Mens Group	405.00
Believe Housing Grant	6893.00
Book/ Cake Sales	1298.00
Bingo Night	383.00
	<u>22368.33</u>

Expenditure

Rent of Room	2595.00
Speakers	210.00
Refreshments/Groceries	6006.72
Trips	3341.75
Gifts	16.99
Christmas Event Prep	300.00
Kitchen Equipment	265.30
Stationery, Resources and IT Equipment	1704.94
Bank Charges	111.98
Blankets	
Sundries	31.44
Public Liability Insurance	89.60
Travel Expenses	368.00
Printing of Book	1995.00
Exercise Class	1363.92
Theatre tickets	532.00

<u>Total expenditure</u>	<u>18932.64</u>
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Profit / Loss (income – expenditure)	<u>3435.69</u>
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Balance brought forward	<u>13303.47</u>
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Balance at end of year	<u>16739.16</u>
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Represented by:

Bank Balance	16664.09
	75.07

Signed

Jackie Gent
Village Friends Financial Manager

Tracey Woods
Independent Reviewer

	SEP24	OCT24	NOV24
<u>INCOME</u>			
Raffles	187.00	264.10	206.00
Donations	220.62	236.98	
Christmas Fair			1002.20
Trip and Activity Tickets			470.00
Connect Group		138.00	298.00
Mens Group			
Believe Housing Grant	2946.50		
Book/ Cake Sales			970.00
Bingo Night			
TOTAL INCOME	3354.12	639.08	2946.20
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Rent of Room	75.00	180.00	220.00
Speakers			
Refreshments/Groceries	401.31	414.83	170.10
Trips			600.00
Gifts			
Christmas Event Prep			
Kitchen Equipment			
Stationery, Resources and IT Equipment		154.76	413.02
Bank Charges	18.00		3.48
Blankets			
Sundries	13.46		
Public Liability Insurance			
Travel Expenses	46.60		
Printing of Book			1995.00
Exercise Class			
Theatre tickets			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	554.37	749.59	3401.60
MONTH TOTAL	2799.75	-110.51	-455.40
<u>RUNNING TOTAL</u>			
BAL 31.08.24			
	13303.47	16103.22	15992.71
	15537.31		

DEC24 JAN25 FEB25 MAR25 APR25 MAY25 JUN25 JUL25 AUG25

51.00	142.80	163.12	201.13	282.38	168.00	186.00	270.79	295.05
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73.00	220.00	180.00	209.00	20.00	101.20	209.00	305.00
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693.00	42.75	518.00	532.00
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165.00	75.50	94.90	161.00	101.90	58.60	149.00	145.00	64.50
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53.00	70.00	72.00	65.00
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2946.50	1000.00
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143.00	48.00	45.00	35.00	6.00	12.00
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240.00 143.00

485.00 486.30 ### 616.13 ### 442.55 ### ### ###

120.00	140.00	180.00	180.00	160.00	160.00	280.00	260.00	180.00
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234.05	281.60	451.92	318.58	192.32	360.89	502.75	290.28	397.60
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407.75	354.00	650.00
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16.99

300.00

28.76	67.09	155.96
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41.49	93.98	44.73	136.68	36.46	98.45	133.20	66.24
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[illegible]

17.98

89.60

160.00	71.70	16.80	72.90
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675.00	640.00	48.92
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532.00

1389.04 521.58 699.64 830.02 802.53 ### ### ### 878.70

-904.04 -35.28 ### ### 329.75 ### 36.28 ### 940.85

14633.27 ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ###

SEP25 OCT25 NOV25 DEC25

347.00	231.09	184.50	179.60
1430.62	265.00	460.00	391.10

122.00		771.00	
			105.90
	75.00		70.00

10.00		29.00	
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### 571.09	### 746.60		
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140.00	100.00	100.00	120.00
210.00			
495.86	274.45	590.68	629.50
480.00		850.00	

13.49			
132.35	123.46	123.12	107.00
6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00

### 503.91	### 862.50		
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431.92	67.18	###	###
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Harbour,
York

I've
enjoyed
every
moment
in the
group and
would like
to thank
you for all
your hard
work.
You have
great
imaginati
on and
the
baking
skills are
unsurpass
ed. I
know
myself
and
everyone
around
me
appreciat
e
everythin
g you do.
All I can
say is
you're
doing it
right.
Thank
you

Continue
the way
you are, I
don't
think you
can
improve
on what
you're
doing. We
all really
appreciat
e all your
hard work
and long
may it
continue.

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It's
always a
joy to