

NVCA Notes from the Chair October 2022

This year has been a fairly steady year for NVCA from my point of view.

Certain long term aims that the NVCA have been trying to push for are still in the same state, those being the pedestrian access to Newchurch school which still has not been improved despite assurances from various quarters and also the land behind the Boars Head is still fenced off despite all development proposals from Hurstwood being with rejected or withdrawn. NVCA was a consulted body during the last application round and I wish to thank Anna for doing a lot of the leg work in forming our response. Personally I find both these situations deeply frustrating, but there is only so much we can do as a community association.

Our first event after lockdown was a bird of prey display in October 2021 which was well attended and had the advantage of being an outdoor event making it Covid safe. It was successful enough for us to put another one on this October. Grant funding for both events was gained from the Rossendale Borough Council community fund.

The Winter 2021 fair also went very well, I believe all our stall holders were happy and even though the weather wasn't in our favour we still had a fair number of people through the door. All these events are learning experiences and I think we learnt a lot about the importance of table placement and signage at this event ! We are booked in to the Methodist church for the Winter 2022 fair.

Once again NVCA received a quantity of bulbs from the council and a couple of volunteer members planted quite large areas of community lawn area. I believe this made a great difference in Spring and for a few weeks the whole place looked brighter which is just what we need at the end of Winter. I'm hoping to get more later this year so that we can carry on this work.

In February we had a community quiz at the Boars which was very well attended and special thanks to Kath and Tracey for hosting it – maybe we could do another one ?

In March we had our first 're-clear' of the Bolton Woods path after last year's epic effort. Unfortunately only 3 people helped out this time, but because we'd done such a great job the previous year it only took a few hours and the end result was as good as the previous year. This does need to be an annual event because even after just one year there were already muddy sections appearing. Peter Fell has done a lovely job of topping the last section of wall before you get to the field at the Cloughfold end, and this includes a bench seat.

In Spring we also arranged for a defib and CPR session with Rossendale first responders which went well and we will be arranging a further session.

Unfortunately, in my opinion, the NVCA did not have a Kirk Fair this year and I really hope we can put something on next year. I know it takes a lot of effort in planning and organising, but it is probably our best way of getting as much of the community as possible taking part in something and mixing together.

NVCA is supporting the local food bank project and several members monitor the foodbox at the bus stop at the top of Church Lane.

NVCA's charity status is now established and we have new membership forms with the new bank account details. We have also set up donation links with Amazon Smile and EasyFundRaising, both of which are working which essentially gives NVCA free money for purchasing goods or services online.

Danny, Natalie and Janet represented NVCA at the mayors award ceremony in May and came away with a cheque for £400 as recognition of our services to the community so we must be doing something right !

The Little Park continues to be very well looked after by our members and we have been donated a petrol mower by Steve Jones which we are very grateful for, and we'll use this when RBC 'forget' to do the mowing.

This will be my last chair's report as I announced last year that I would be stepping down at the next AGM. I will still take an active role in NVCA activities and will help my successor in any way I can.