



# High Hopes for Halliwell-being AGM Report

1st January 2022 - 31st December 2022

The journey of High Hopes for Halliwell-being in 2022 has been very different from the previous year. It's been a year to celebrate, as we've been able to rebuild lost connections, gain new ones, and restore life back into our Community Centre. We have been successful in our fundraising so that we can carry on our usual activities and to start new ones. We worked on a large community consultation and our new business plan for the next 3-5 years. This will guide us for the coming years.

## The story of our year

- **High Hopes groups**



Our **walking group** started back in March, and we have around 15-18 people that take part fortnightly. They have explored lots of new local areas and they stop off for drinks too! We are excited that our walking group is active and growing.

The feedback from the walking group is that they enjoy the company and feel good about getting some "steps in". Our volunteer group leader (Geoff) enjoys telling people stories and a little bit about the local area. We were successful with



a Bolton CVS fund, take them further via coach, where usually lunch in a the walking group in

weather turns cold and icy, but due to year we have carried this on and will



so we have been able to afield, to other green spaces they have a walk and local café. We usually finish November when the the weather being mild this carry it on in the new year.

Our **Fun Days Parent & Toddler Group** started back in January. We are lucky that we have 3 wonderful volunteers that help run this, two childminders, Bernie and Beth and one volunteer Barbara who runs the kitchen, doing snacks for the parents and children. We have seen a rise in numbers, showing a need for this provision, so we made the decision to keep the group going through the holidays, this group is open 50 weeks of the year and only closes for 2 weeks over the Christmas period. They play with the toys and games and enjoy "song time". Parents and carers make good connections and build supportive relationships. We organised a Christmas party and "Moo Music" came to entertain the children and Father Christmas gave out presents.





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**Chair Yoga** This is great exercise for body and mind and the attendees look forward to this group work every week. We have a weigh in for people who either want to lose weight or put some on. We have around 15-20 people attend this, and the ages are from 65 to 96 years young!



**Creative Writing** – We provided a ten-week course in 2022 for 6 people. It's a fun activity for beginners who want to learn to write poems and stories.

## *The River Flows*

From a tiny trickle on the eastern rise, springs forth a source of future life  
Twisting and turning, fording a route, quenching the land as it passes through.  
Flowing homeward along it's course, carving channels in the valley floor.  
Bubbling over beds of twinkling gems, catching shafts of light as it bends.  
Supporting life by night and day as it meanders on its way  
To find the lowest point of land, there it will settle and lodge content,  
as it finishes it's descent  
From walkways and bridges we watch the scene, ever changing but so serene.

By Lana Cook

We thought our **WhatsApp Group** would go quiet once "lockdown" finished, but we are still adding people to the group. We have our morning chorus, where we all say "good morning" to each other and talk about all sorts of things, from what we are up to that day and what's happening at the centre. It's also a good way to ask what they would like to see at the centre and if anyone has gone quiet, we will call them privately to see if they are ok.



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Our **Thursday Friends group** is going strong, and we have around 15-20 people per fortnight. They have lunch for £1, we have a quiz and play other games plus Bingo and Play Your Cards Right.



- **High Hopes new groups**

We did a big community consultation and out of this we now have a **Line dancing** class on a Friday morning. The people really enjoy it and even plucked up the courage to do a demonstration at our Christmas Fayre! This is a great way to keep fit, their balance improves and is good for their memory as they need to learn the dance moves.



- **Partnerships and Relationships**

High Hopes for Halliwell-being rents office space and the use of the community room to **Halliwell Befriending Service (HBS)**. They are stakeholders within the building and have a permanent base in the centre. High Hopes shares an office with HBS.

This year we have worked together on a mental health and wellbeing project where we had group sessions of around 10 people per session with 2 trained counsellors.

We worked together for our Summer Fayre, this was a fantastic day, and the use of the outside area was a hit, we had people that stayed all day with their children, we think this was due to the ride on toys and the weather.



We celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee with a party at the centre.



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We also worked together on our Christmas Fayre. We had some local small businesses hiring stalls in the Community Centre and St Paul's Church. We were also very pleased that **High Lawn School Choir** wanted to come back again and sing a few songs. The weather was mild and dry this year and we had over 200+ people that came out to support us and it was a very enjoyable day.



We also worked together with **HBS** on group Christmas parties one at the Community Centre and another that was cooked and served as a traditional Christmas meal at St Luke's, Chorley Old Road. All the groups had a wonderful time, and the feedback was great.



**HAFWAY** was another stakeholder in the building, and we worked with them on the Christmas Fayre. They were successful with a bid to provide activities for children daily in the summer holidays. As the community centre has lots of activities going on through the week, **HAFWAY** moved to the Parish centre for these activities. The feedback from the youths was that they loved having their own space, the numbers grew, and they were having over 70 youths using the Parish centre. The Parish centre space is bigger than the Community centre and with discussions with the church committee they agreed that **HAFWAY** could stay at the Parish centre on a permanent basis.

We are sad to see them go but happy that they have their own space and can grow their numbers.

Due to **HAFWAY** leaving, some of the groups that used the Parish centre are now using our space. **HBS's** craft group and luncheon group have moved here, and we have arranged with **Kabod Church** to start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023, they are renting the room for the full day on Sundays for 52 weeks of the year.

We have been fortunate that we have found another organisation, **Caribbean and African Health Network** that will be renting the office that **HAFWAY** have left, they moved in in the middle of December. They also rent the hall on a Wednesday afternoon for their activities and once they are more established, they will be using the community room more often.

We have a good relationship with **Bolton CVS** and commissioned them to help us write our new business plan. Trustees, staff and volunteers access their training programmes to keep up to date with safeguarding, health and safety, etc and we have also been successful with funding from them.



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**Foster with Bolton** had an event on Tuesday 17th May in the evening. We provided the space and tea & coffee.

- **High Hopes events, trips & Fundraising**



**Quiz Night** on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April. We had over 50 people attend this event, and everyone had a great time.



**Summer Community Funday** on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of May, this was a fantastic day and great for all the community. This was a great fundraiser for High Hopes and HBS.



Trip to **Cleveys and Huntleys farm** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May. This was a great day out, we had lunch out at a restaurant. We hired a 51-seater coach which was full. People had a lovely time and enjoyed the two places that we visited.





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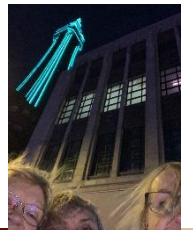
**High Hopes** and **HBS** organised a **Jubilee Party** for the community on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. We had over 50



people attend this, we had a quiz, played games, and had a lovely buffet, it was a lovely celebration.



**Chippy tea** at the community centre, then coach to **Blackpool Illuminations** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. We hired a 35-seater coach and had 30 people attend. The chippy tea went down very well, and everyone loved going through the lights in Blackpool.





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High Hopes **Quiz night fundraiser** with food and a few games of bingo. This was on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. We had a full house again with over



50 people attending, the feedback was fantastic, and people were happy to be able to get out on a winter's night.



**Christmas Fayre** 3<sup>rd</sup> December. We were blessed with the weather, people could shop, have food and play games on the day. There was something for everyone. Our **volunteers** and staff did a wonderful job. We got **donations** from Asda and the Co-op for our tombola and raffle, Mr G Forrest donated meats so that we could serve hot beef and turkey barms,



he also donated ham that we can use at our Thursday friends' group. Our service users, church patrons and



other small businesses in the community donated lots of items too, we are so grateful to all of them.



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Our **Parent and Toddler** group had a fantastic time at their **Christmas party**. We arranged for Moo Music to come and join us and we even had a visit off Santa!



High Hopes **Christmas Party** 8<sup>th</sup> December. We had everyone from our **Thursday friends** group attend and then invited other service users. We had a quiz, played games, got Carrs pasties and peas and lots of other yummy treats. Everyone took a present home with them; money to buy them was **donated** by a Mrs J Whittingham. We had a great sing song at the end and it lovely to hear people laughing and talking to each other.



- **Building developments**

We had problems with the disabled toilet blocking due to the pipe work, we have now changed the pipe work and haven't had any problems since. We also had the front doors and the small porch painted.

- **Involving people from our community**

We encourage volunteers to get involved in our activities and due to this we have the walking group, which is led by our Keep Active trained volunteer, as well as our Fun Days Toddler Group which is led by 2 fully qualified Child Minders. We have over 20 volunteers that help either on a weekly basis or help at our events throughout the year.

All the activities, trips and events that take place have come from our consultations with our community and service users.





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- **The difference we are making.**

The feedback from our large community consultation this year has shown that people want more social and keep fit activities. After lockdown we were surprised at how people wanted to connect and were not worried about being in groups. We have lots of new people that have connected with us and come to more than 1 activity in the week. Peoples mental and physical health had suffered because of the Covid restrictions, and they have been very lonely, but this year has been different, and people are rebuilding lost connections and gained new ones.

Feedback from some our service users:

Parent and toddler group: “St Paul’s Playgroup is lovely, me and my granddaughter love it. It’s so friendly and they are so welcoming, we love the snacks.” “Very welcoming, good number of toys for all ages. Lovely outside space to play.”

Quiz night: “Nice company and a well organised evening.” “Brilliant night, relaxed and fun, great to get everyone together, well done.” “Very enjoyable, nice to see so many people on a November evening.” “Lots of laughter, great atmosphere, so very cheerful. It was good to be waited on for a change.”

Creative Writing: “The best thing about the writing group is that it exists at all! It has given me reason to write something every week. I have now joined with my wife the Thursday Friends group which is great.” “Came here by chance, looked at the noticeboard outside, came in and joined a few groups. Made welcome and now part of the community, I do yoga, crafts and writing.” “I have enjoyed every creative writing group. It has made me think about things differently and I must say I didn’t think I would be able to do as much as I have. I also go to lots of other sessions at the centre which I love as I live alone and like the company.”

## **List of successful grants from funders who we would like to thank for 2022:**

- 1. Bolton CVS Health and Wellbeing - £4756 for our new line dancing class on a Friday morning.**
- 2. Allen Lane Foundation - £5000, towards our core costs over 2 years.**
- 3. Duchy of Lancaster (Greater Manchester Lieutenancy) - £700 towards the maintenance of the Community Centre (disabled toilet and painting of from doors and porch).**
- 4. Reaching Communities Lottery - £68,000, towards our core costs over 3 years (this will go on staff wages).**
- 5. Awards for All - £10,000, towards staff wages.**



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6. Sir James and Lady Scott Trust – £1574 for Creative Writing sessions and the coach to go through Blackpool Illuminations.
7. The Charity Service –£9000 over 3 years towards our gas and electricity costs.
8. Asda cost of living fund - £368, help towards our daily standing charge for electricity.
9. Bolton CVS Festive Fund – £130, food vouchers for our volunteers to say thank you for the help they have provided in the year.
10. Bolton CVS - £3600, household support, warm spaces and food packages for people that are struggling.

- **Our future plans**

We have a robust business plan to follow and will be working on the below in the coming year/s:

The building to be open to the community at least 2 evenings per week.

We want to see an increased use of the building by attendees in 18-50 age bracket.

The capacity of the core staff team to be increased with an additional minimum of 4 hours staff time.

We will be looking recruit 2 trustees with suitable experience/skills to support finance, funding and HR key functions.

Fostering links with local businesses.

Website: <https://www.hopes4halliwell.co.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/highhopesforhalliwellbeing>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/hopes\\_being](https://twitter.com/hopes_being)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/highhopesforhalliwellbeing/>