

Vice Chair's Report to the AGM July 2010

As in previous years Delph Community Association (DCA) has focussed on two main areas.

Firstly supporting Delph Library and secondly bringing the concerns of Delphers to the attention of the Parish and Borough Councils with a view to resolving them

DCA Executive Committee

Sue Lund has joined as a fundraiser, John Martindale and Geoff Bayley have a special interest in the environment and traffic, and Mike Clegg has taken over the web site. Our thanks go to them and to the other members of the committee for their contribution to DCA.

Delph Library

The library continues to operate with volunteers and with DCA raising funds for the running costs. Oldham Council provide new books and their Community Librarian for Saddleworth and Lees meets with the volunteer librarian and coordinator every 6 weeks.

There were 3,698 visits to the library in the year 1st June 2009- 31st May 2010. A total of 587 children's books and 3374 adult's books were borrowed. The computers were used for 219 hours during that period.

Three class visits from Delph School took place during the year and a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Care was held in September. Saddleworth Voices was officially launched in January, and there are now recordings of 40 local people available to borrow from the library. Judith Barrow, who used to live on Stoneswood Road, gave a book reading of her latest novel 'Pattern of Shadows' on July 1st. A copy was acquired for the library.

The self- issue machine, which was installed by Oldham Council in September, has proved very unreliable. It is hoped that a recent meeting with Andrea Ellison (Oldham Council Library and Information Manager) will lead to an improvement.

There are at present 40 active volunteers. Thanks to them all, the library continues to provide up to date books in good condition and a nice place to meet and chat. Ideas for new services and activities are appreciated and can be discussed with the volunteers when the library is open.

Finance and Fundraising

Joanne Leighton has continued to serve as our treasurer but has now sadly resigned due to other heavy commitments. We have been actively looking for someone to take over her role, and hope that we will have found a willing volunteer by the AGM.

Our thanks go to Joanne for keeping the accounts in order and in dealing with all financial matters so efficiently. The accounts will be presented in Joanne's absence and will be copied to the Charities Commission.

The two main fund raising events this year were the Theatre Event and the Scarecrow Trail. Sales of books at a number of events have also contributed to the funds. The support from the Friends of Delph Library is also much appreciated, as are two very generous individual donations. Our thanks go to all who have contributed in their different ways.

Joanne estimates that we will need to raise £3,200 this financial year to cover expenses.

Delph Donkey Scarecrow Trail 2010

The theme for the Scarecrows this year was the songs of Abba, Queen and the Beatles. 21 Scarecrows were on display around the village. Delph Lane and Clifton Holme were included for the first time and Delph School were welcomed back as Scarecrow hosts. Over 400 copies of the trail guide were distributed and about 80 completed entries were received. The winning ticket for the £50 meal voucher donated by the Old Bell Inn was won by Grace Malone. The second prize for 2 tickets to a performance of Saddleworth Players in the 2010/2011 season was won by Jill and Andrew Davis. Two Scarecrows will share the cup for the peoples favorite: 'For the Benefit of Mr Kit' made by Sheila Beresford and her son Andrew, and 'Waterloo' made by the Old Bell Inn. As a result of more businesses advertising in the trail guide and increasing the price of each copy to £1.50 the profit from this year's trail has been the highest so far in it's 3 year history. Special thanks go to Di Gaunt, her son Jake and Paul Travis for compiling the trail guide. Thanks to all who took part either as Scarecrow hosts, advertisers or sellers of trail guides. Extra special thanks go to Sue Lund who masterminded the whole project.

Saddleworth Voices

This project was initiated by Martin Plant with help from DCA and the North West Sound Archive in Clitheroe. A team of 10 volunteers have been trained to interview local people using equipment funded by a grant from Saddleworth Parish Council. Copies of the C.D.'s are held in Delph Library and can be borrowed. People who have lived in Saddleworth all their life enjoy listening, as it brings back memories. They also provide an insight into local history for those who have come to live here recently. It is planned to take part in the Heritage Open Days, September 9 – 11th in various venues in Saddleworth, supported by Oldham Local Interest Centre. Saddleworth Voices are keen to add to their collection, and would be delighted to record the memories of anyone you think would be willing to share them. Contact Gill Clarke on 87 5778.

Whit Friday Sports

Although in the past, these have been organised by the churches, last year and this year the churches were very grateful when Delph Community Association offered to arrange them. You would be amazed at the red tape involved in running 2 hours of children's sports. Our insurers required a Child Protection Policy, a risk assessment and a first aider on duty. Last year, the rain limited the sports although everyone enjoyed them. This year, we had lovely weather, lots of people brought picnics and there was great fun with the races. Oldham Mountain Rescue provided 3 first aiders and we had lots of help from DCA members and the churches. Thank you to everyone who contributed and to Delph School for letting us use their field and equipment.

Swan Meadow Play Area

This refurbished play area was opened at the beginning of May and has been very well used and enjoyed ever since. However there have been considerable problems with litter. In large measure this is because there is only one litter- bin, which is only emptied twice a week. This has proved to be totally inadequate. Keith Begley has asked for another 2 litter- bins and more frequent emptying. I have also contacted the council officer responsible for the maintenance of the play area backing up his request. Dog walkers and parents of children using the play area have helped to litter

pick. It is hoped to include some young people and the volunteers who keep Chapel Gardens clean, as well.

Delph Roads and Traffic

Geoff Bayley and John Martindale have been attending the Traffic and Transport Subgroup of the Parish Council and the Saddleworth and Lees District Partnership on our behalf. Ken Hulme has also held a meeting at the band club and is planning a questionnaire for Delphers to try and get some consensus on what people want.

- Work has not been completed on Denshaw Road by the school. Proposed parking restrictions had not been properly authorised, and were also the subject of objections.
- Proper signage of the vehicle priorities on Delph bridge have been requested for the approach to High St, but there has been no agreement so far.
- Road markings through the middle of the village have been repainted , as requested.
- The possibility of a pedestrian crossing on Millgate was discussed. It was also suggested that there should be a traffic priority scheme similar to that at the bridge.
- The 'road narrows' sign outside the Craft Shop, which has faced the wrong way for many years has not been rectified.
- * Poor visibility for drivers of vehicles when leaving both Grains Rd and Stoneswood Rd, particularly when turning right, has been discussed. A mirror has been suggested by several people. OMBC officers said that mirrors were against the Council's policy but were unable to offer other solutions. A copy of the Department for Transport Guidance Notes on the use of mirrors has been obtained and copies passed to ward councillors.
- * The problem of vehicles mounting the pavement on Millgate when turning right out of Stoneswood Rd was also discussed.
- A 20mph speed limit has been requested through the village.

There is another meeting of the Transport and Traffic subcommittee on July 7th where these and other transport matters will be discussed.

Thanks

Thanks go to all those who have attended our meetings and worked to further the aims of the Association. Thanks are also due to the Millgate Centre and St Thomas' Church for allowing us to meet in their buildings. Particular thanks go to Gill Clark, Joanne Leighton, Sue Lund, Ken Hulme, John Martindale, Geoff Bayley, Keith Begley, Mike Clegg and Joan Lally.

Phillida Shipp

Vice Chair, on behalf of the Executive, Delph Community Association

July 2010