

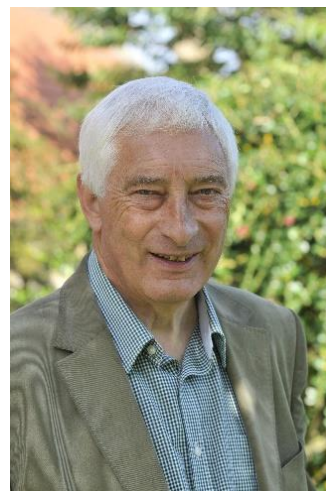
ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Community Action Northumberland for the year to 31st March 2020.

Earlier in the year the Board reviewed our mission and made some changes. Our purpose is to benefit and help sustain rural communities in Northumberland by:

- Promoting Rural Issues – Providing and supporting a 'rural voice' to influence policy, programmes and action.
- Empowering Communities – Supporting and developing local communities, their key groups and organisations.
- Delivering solutions – Identifying, developing and managing projects to address the needs of individuals.
- Addressing climate change – delivering projects and influencing behaviours to help meet climate action requirements.



As the Northumberland member of the national ACRE Network (Action with Communities in Rural England) we have undertaken a wide range of projects and worked with a number of significant key partners.

Our partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund has continued for a second year and has seen grants totalling £300,000 going to twelve village halls for refurbishment.

Our work in helping people into employment has grown through our partnership with the Bridge Project, running permanent weekly Rural Employment Hubs at Alnwick, Amble, Haltwhistle, Hexham and Prudhoe.

Our Warm Hubs programme continues to go from strength to strength with funding obtained to support pop-up warm hubs. We have also been active with Ofgem in relation to the 357 properties in Northumberland that are not connected to the electricity network.

Our key partnership with the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) is hugely valued. We work with NALC and directly with many Local Councils on a range of topics and issues, hosting the online Parish Council portal.

Through our wholly owned trading subsidiary, Communities CAN, we have supported many rural communities and expanded to become the Community Led Housing Hub for the North of Tyne area. I would like to express thanks to the Directors of Communities CAN who are taking forward this activity.

OilCAN continues to offer low cost heating oil to assist the fuel poor. EnergyCAN helps village halls and other buildings to obtain competitively priced electricity and gas with over 50 contracts in place.

We continue to manage the Wingates Windfarm Community Fund and engage in a range of other projects.

Financially we have had another good year which has resulted in a small deficit and we have strong reserves.

In 2018/19 the Board extended the contracted hours of key staff to generate even more benefits for rural communities. Success can be measured by an increase in income of 22 % to £410,346.

I am very much aware that the Coronavirus pandemic had only just started at the end of the year we are reporting on. We have seen how the pandemic has had a detrimental impact on all aspects of life. CAN's services are needed more than ever during a time like this. From March this year, the staff have been working from home doing a tremendous job in delivering CAN's services. I offer my sincere thanks to them all.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their support and leadership. After 11 years as a Trustee the Venerable Peter Robinson, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, stepped down from the Board after making a significant contribution to CAN for which we are very thankful. Peter has moved to be the Dean of Derby and we wish him well for the future. We welcomed Lesley Tudor-Snodin who joined the Board at the last AGM.

Finally, I would like to thank the many volunteers and supporters throughout the County whose interest, support and commitment are so vital and invaluable. I commend this report to you.

Adrian Hinchcliffe, Chair

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The covid-19 pandemic struck at the very end of the 2019-20 financial year. This has had a significant impact on the work of all organisations, including CAN, and will be reported on in our Annual Report for 2020-21. 2019-20 was another busy and successful year for CAN. Highlights include:

- The year marked the further development of our three-year partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund, directing much needed investment into **village halls and community buildings** in a variety of locations. The foundation for this partnership is CAN's hugely valued support service which includes one-to-one case work, good practice resources and training, funding bids, asset transfers and achieving the Hallmark standard. The year was capped by a second annual celebration event attended by a capacity audience as part of National Village Halls Week in January 2020. As the covid-19 pandemic took effect from the end of the year, our service has become even more critical.
- Our direct partnership with the **Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC)** has remained a fundamental element to the way we work. Through a dedicated officer, we have provided advice, training and a wide range of support throughout the year and further solidified the NALC-CAN relationship into the future.
- Our **Rural Employment Hub** network is a key element of the countywide 'Bridge Project' with 5 hubs operating every week across the rural county providing essential support to local unemployed people. The Bridge Project is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund as part of the Building Better Opportunities Programme. Our service ensures rural residents can access the support they need and has become even more necessary as a result of the pandemic's impact.
- Our **Warm Hubs** project has maintained its drive across Northumberland with continuing support from Northern Gas Networks. Warm Hubs are places within local communities where people can be assured of finding a safe, warm and friendly environment in which to enjoy the company of other people. A series of additional activities have built on the Warm Hubs project including our 'slow cooking revolution' involving the distribution of slow cookers to support healthy and energy efficient cooking.
- With funds provided from the Community Housing Fund, **Communities CAN (North East)** has continued to support local communities keen to deliver community-led affordable housing schemes where these are needed in many parts of Northumberland. During the year this service expanded to cover the whole of the North of Tyne area with a strong pipeline of projects developed.
- Fuel poverty and energy efficiency remained a key focus for CAN, managing our **OilCAN** joint heating fuel/LPG/Coal procurement scheme and **EnergyCAN** (a mechanism for helping organisations and individuals to secure cheaper electricity and gas contracts) as well as promoting available funding.
- We managed the Wingates **Windfarm Community Fund** awarding 13 grants to local projects during the year totalling £31,000.
- Our **President**, Lord Curry of Kirkharle, expertly presided over his second CAN Annual General Meeting in 2019 and continues to provide invaluable guidance. We are hugely grateful to the support provided by Lord Curry and look forward to building further on his wealth of experience at both local and national levels.



This is just a brief snapshot of what we have been up to. For more information please view our website or contact info@ca-north.org.uk

CAN'S FINANCES

2019-20 saw CAN maintain a surplus for the fourth consecutive year running. However, £88,419 of funds were restricted – grants paid in advance for expenditure in the following financial year. The net operating loss for 2019-20, therefore, was £11,587. This has been met from the surplus made in previous years. Our reserves remain healthy and at the level we need, and we have a small project fund available for investment in new activities.

Our key financial relationships with both Defra and NALC have been maintained. A small number of funded programmes have come to an end, but we have continued to diversify our other income with a combination of grant, contract, consultancy and directly earned income representing strong foundations for subsequent financial years.

Significant thanks must go to our committed and passionate staff and trustees, and to our members and supporters, all of whom are listed below.

Income and Expenditure Account (year ended 31 March 2020)

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Voluntary Income		Raising Funds	
Donations & legacies	5,645	Cost of generating income	4,274
Other trading activities	5,536		
Bank interest received	1,093		
Charitable Activities Income		Charitable Activities	
DEFRA	42,405	Salaries, NI, pension	183,361
NALC	30,000	Project direct costs	125,194
OilCAN/EnergyCAN	9,341	Support costs	10,509
ISOS/Karbon/ESF Rural Employment	2,730		
Wingates	2,829	Governance Costs	
Northern Gas Networks	20,000	Salaries, NI, pension	6,868
Community Buildings Officer	18,384	Administration	3,308
Rural Connect (NEEAL)	2,400		
Haltwhistle Partnership	9,000		
Energy project sundry income	1,043		
Community Housing Fund	51,991		
NE Community-led Housing Network	5,300		
Empowering Communities	2,000		
BBO Project	82,599		
Community Foundation	5,000		
Berwick Community Trust	2,200		
NLHF Northld Village Hall Heritage	84,600		
NLHF Rural Churches for Everyone	26,250		
TOTAL INCOME	410,346	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	333,514
		SURPLUS FOR YEAR	76,832

Patron

His Grace the Duke of Northumberland

President

Lord Curry of Kirkharle CBE

Vice Presidents

Rt Hon Lord Alan Beith; Mrs S E Black MBE; Rev Canon B Burston; Ven R Langley;
Mr J A Trotter OBE; Mrs S Walker; Dr D Francis

Board of Directors

Ms Jan Ashdown
Mrs Elizabeth Elliott
Mr George Hepburn OBE
Mrs Linda Frater (Hon Treasurer) until 14.06.19
Mr Adrian Hinchcliffe (Chairman)
Mr Tony Hood
Mrs Jean Humphrys
Mr Miles Middleton CBE FCA
Councillor Anthony Murray MBE
Ven Peter Robinson
Mrs Valerie Vaughan
Mrs Lesley Tudor -Snodin
Ms Sian Armstrong
Mr Craig Weir until 04.11.19

Staff

Louise Currie – Community Initiatives Officer
Carol Davison – Finance & Admin Officer
Andy Dean – Chief Executive Officer
Christine Nicholls – Community Development Officer
Julia Plinston – Community Development Officer
Stephen Rickitt – NALC Chief Officer
Margaret Tweddell – Finance & Admin Assistant
Andrew Beresford -Bridge Worker
Alex Scott- Bridge Worker

Marketing Consultant

Carrie Brookes

Work Coaches

Michelle Awburn
Lisa Douglas
Bert Boonstra
Sarah Sunderland

Members and Supporters 2019-20

Acklington Parish Council	European Social Fund
ACRE	FONDT
AF Affinity Ltd	Forestry Commission
Age UK	M Gibbs
Age UK Northumberland	R Gibbs
Allendale Parish Council	Gilsland Village Hall
Allendale CC	Great Whittington Village Hall
Allenheads Trust Ltd	Greenhead Parish Council
Alwinton Parish Council	Haltwhistle Town Council
Amble Town Council	Haltwhistle Partnership Ltd
Ancroft Memorial Hall	Mr T Hawkins
Association of Northumberland Local History Societies	Haydon Parish Council
Bardon Mill Parish Council	The Hearth Centre (Horsley) Ltd
Barnabas	Healey Parish Council
Beadnell Womens Institute	Heddon on the Wall Parish Council
Berwick Community Trust	Hedley Parish Council
Birtley Village Hall	Henshaw Parish Council
Bowsden Village Hall	Hepple Parish Council
Breamish Hall	High Forest Community Association
Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council	Hindmarsh Village Hall (Alnmouth)
Byrness Village Hall	Horsley Parish Council
Bywell Parish Council	Horsley WI/Village Hall
Chollerton Parish Council	Howick Village Hall
Choppington Parish Council	Jubilee Hall Newton on the Moor
CISWO	The Jubilee Institute
CLA - North	Sir James Knott Trust
Colwell Village Hall	St Johns Church Hall
Corbridge Parish Council	W D Johnson
Cornhill Parish Council	The Joicey Trust
Cornhill Village Hall	Kirknewton Village Hall
Corsenside Parish Council	Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall
Combating Isolation Fund	Knarsdale with Kirkhaugh Community Hall
Community Foundation	Knarsdale with Kirkhaugh Parish Council
Community Led Homes	Karbon Homes
Craster Community Trust	LABB Finance for Sustainability
Cresswell Village Hall	Langley Village Hall
Crookham Village Hall	Lesbury Parish Council
Dalton Village Hall	Lesbury Village Hall
Dept of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	J F Lewis
Diocese of Newcastle	Longhorsley Parish Council
Dinnington Parish Council	Longhoughton Community & Sports Centre Trust
East Bedlington Parish Council	Longhoughton Parish Council
Eglington Parish Council	A Lowrie
Ellingham Parish Council	LSI Energy
Ellingham Village Hall	Matfen Parish Council
Ellington Village Hall	C G Matthews-Maxwell
Ellington Social Welfare Centre	Merton Hall Recreation Centre
Elsdon Parish Council	G E Miller
Embleton Parish Council	Middleton & Todridge Village Hall

<p>MIND Active D H Morgan Morpeth Town Council N Mundy National Energy Action The National Lottery Heritage Fund The National Lottery Community Fund Netherton & Biddlestone Parish Council Netherton War Memorial Hall Netherwitton Hall Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council Newbrough Parish Council Newton and Bywell CT Newton by the Sea Parish Council Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council Norham Parish Council Northern Gas Networks North Northumberland Village Hall Consortium Northumberland Assoc of Local Councils Northumberland County Council Northumberland CVA Northumberland Federation of Womens Institutes Northumberland National Parks OilCAN Members Otterburn Parish Council Otterburn Memorial Hall Ovingham Parish Council Ovingham Reading Room Ovington Community Ovington Parish Council Pegswood Parish Council Ponteland Memorial Hall Ponteland Town Council R Poppleton Power to Change Prudhoe Town Council Rennington Village Hall</p>	<p>S Richardson Rochester & Byrness Parish Council The Rothley Trust Rural Churches for Everyone Rural Connect NEEAL K Rushworth SCATA Shilbottle Community Hall Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council Simon Underwood Associates Simonburn Parish Council Slaley Commemoration Hall Slaley Parish Council South Charlton Village Hall Stamfordham Village Hall Stannington Village Hall Stocksfield Community Association Stocksfield Parish Council H Talbot Taret Village Hall Thropton War Memorial Hall Thropton Parish Council Ulgham Parish Council Ulgham WI United Reformed Church Upper Coquetdale Community Transport VONNE Ventient Energy Wall Village Hall Wark Mechanics Institute & Town Hall Warden Parish Council Warkworth Parish Council West N'land Community Buildings Consortium Whalton Village Hall Whittingham Memorial Institute Whittington Parish Council Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund Workers' Educational Association Wylam Institute Community Association</p>
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Address: Uniun Enterprise Building, Front Street, Pegswood, Morpeth,
Northumberland, NE61 6UF
Tel: 01670 517178 / 07476 746082
Email: info@ca-north.org.uk
Website: <http://ca-north.org.uk/>
Company No: 7805401
Charity No: 1144604

