

# Northowram Scarecrow Event

*'Supporting your community'*



## 2026 Annual General Meeting Report



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## 1. Chairs Report

Hello everyone, my name is Janet Green. I am the very proud Chair of the Northowram Scarecrow Event Committee. This year, the weather certainly tested us with significant rain on Sunday. Despite this the village once again hosted a hugely successful and well attended event. The Scarecrow Event is built on community spirit, participation and support, and my heartfelt thanks go to all the residents of Northowram who took part. From creating over 65 wonderfully imaginative scarecrows that appeared throughout the village, to running events/stalls and supporting the event in so many different ways – you are what makes the event so special.

The 2026 event got off to a fantastic start with an excellent opening ceremony. My thanks go to The Mayor of Calderdale for officially opening the event, the Magpie Movers for their wonderful and moving dance routines, the Clifton & Lightcliffe Band for providing such great music and the WR28 Haworth Home Guard for their support. Let us not forget our own Phil Ward for putting it all together, thank you.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, donations and the public, this year we have raised £4,500 after expenses and paid out £4,465 for local worthy causes. That brings our total support since the Scarecrow Event began in 2011 to an amazing £39,000. That achievement belongs to everyone who has supported the event over the years – whether by buying a programme or raffle ticket, donating a raffle prize or money, creating a scarecrow or simply coming along and taking part. The funds raised have made a real difference to local organisations, enabling them to undertake projects and improvements that may not otherwise have been possible.

A huge thank you also goes to the 2026 event sponsor, Lydgate Fisheries, and to the many individuals and businesses that support us through advertising, raffle prizes, and monetary donations. Amongst those supporters, I would like to thank The Club for allowing us to use their room for our meetings and the car park for the event. My thanks also go to our judges, who generously volunteered their time and expertise to undertake the difficult task of choosing this year's winners – certainly no small feat!

So, a huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who has given their time, energy, money, creativity or support both this year and over the years. You have once again shown what a great community Northowram is.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank our committee members and our volunteers. Every member of the committee is dedicated to the organising and running of the Scarecrow Event and to maintaining the wonderful event it has become over the years. Without their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work, and without the tireless efforts of our volunteers, there would be no event.

The Committee gained one new member this year and new volunteers, we hope they will continue to support us in 2026/27. If you should like to join us either as a volunteer or new member, then please contact us by email at [northowramscarecrow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:northowramscarecrow@hotmail.co.uk).

My thanks go to Elaine Caffrey and Elaine Hey who are leaving the committee this year after 4 and 3 years respectively of dedicated service. Both were our official photographers, capturing so many wonderful moments from the Scarecrow event over the years. They have both been valued members of the committee and their contribution has been greatly appreciated.

Once again, we will be holding the Armistice Day Service for 2026 on Wednesday, November 11th, at 10.50am for a 10.55am start at the Memorial Stone on Northowram Green. The traditional 2-minute silence, Last post and Reveille played by a solo bugler, laying of wreathes, poetry readings and collective remembrance will be included to remember those involved in conflict both past and present, everyone is welcome to attend.

Amongst other information, this AGM pack includes more detailed financial facts and guidance on how to apply for funding. Our website [www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk](http://www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk) also hosts a range of forms and reports which readers may find useful.

Janet Green  
NSE Chair

## 2. Treasurers Report

### INTRODUCTION

The financial year for the Northowram Scarecrow Event is 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July. This Annual Treasurer's report therefore covers the financial year 2025/26.

### ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW

The opening balance on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 was a surplus of £1,126 with a further £2,600 carried forward for designated grants relating to 2024/25 which remained unpaid.

Total Income for the year was £9,089 with Expenditure of £3,617

Grants made to Community Groups totalled £4,465. In addition, £1,933 of grants designated in 2024/25 were paid during the year.

The closing balance carried forward on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026 was £1,300, with £1,500 earmarked for unpaid 2025/26 designated grants

A detailed breakdown of the accounts is shown on page 6.

### INCOME ANALYSIS

Income raised in 2025/26 was £9,089, an increase of 20% on 2024/5. The main reason for the increase was the £1,398 raised through donations and a GoFundMe appeal towards the 2025 Village Christmas Tree.

Programme advertising (including Event sponsorship) raised £2,760. This is 9% down on 2024/25 due to reduce take up of advertising space. Sales of Programmes raised £1,692 which is 10% higher than 2024/25. The Committee is extremely grateful to Lydgate Fisheries who sponsored this year's event and to all many the organisations & groups who supported the event by purchasing advertising space in the Event Programme.

Sales of Raffle tickets raised £916, an increase of 6% on 2024/25.

The Tombola, which operated on only Saturday & Monday raised £291, a 10% lower than 2024/25.

Pitch Fees raised £90, a reduction on the previous year due to only one Face Painter being used this year.

Donations in 2025/26 totalled £1,088 received from organisations/individuals who ran events over the Scarecrow Weekend together with donations from collection buckets. This represented an increase of 130% on 2024/25. Thanks go to the Shoulder of Mutton, Heywood Church, The Club and Cromwell Bottom Nature Reserve for their generous support.

Other income included

- Sale of mini scarecrows           £600
- Sale of Straw                       £104
- Candy Floss & Windmill sales   £148

These sources of income (shown as Other income) totalled £852 and were 23% higher than in 2024/25 due to increased sales across the board.

## **EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS**

Expenditure in 2025/26 was £3,617 broadly unchanged from 2024/25.

The main items of expenditure in 2025/26 were Event costs. These included the printing of Programmes, Raffle tickets, Flyers etc, purchase of equipment & stationery, windmills, mini scarecrow and insurance costs.

Total Event costs for 2025/6 were £3,197 compared to £3,286 in 2024/25 representing a small reduction of 2%.

IT costs were £175, reduced from previous year due to lower NSE Website costs. Stationery costs increased by £55 compared with 2024/25.

Miscellaneous expenditure comprised Bank charges of £79 and Sum-up transaction fees of £15. The increase was primarily due to higher bank charges.

## **GRANTS MADE TO COMMUNITY GROUPS**

In 2025/26 the Northowram Scarecrow Event will support the following Community Groups through £4,465 grant funding.

Northowram Community Centre  
Northowram Fields Cricket Club  
Northowram Primary School  
Northowram Tennis Club  
Halifax Photographic Society  
Northowram Community Sports & Activity Club

In addition, £1,932.89 of grants designated in 2024/25 were paid during the year to support the Northowram Memorial Garden repairs and the provision & installation of the Village 2025 Christmas Tree.

A further £1,500 of Designated Grant funding will be paid later in 2026 to support the Village Christmas Tree

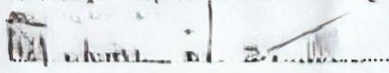
## **OTHER**

The 2025/26 Accounts have been audited and approved by an Independent Auditor.

Thanks go to all the residents, organisations, businesses and volunteers who have supported the 2026 Event. Their continued support enables the Event to make a positive contribution to community groups and projects across Northowram

Janet Green - Joint Treasurer  
August 2026

### 3. Summary of Audited Accounts

|                                                              | For the period                                                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                                              | 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026                                                       | 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025 |
| <b>INCOME</b>                                                |                                                                                     |                               |
| Adverts                                                      | 2760.00                                                                             | 3050.00                       |
| Programmes                                                   | 1692.60                                                                             | 1539.00                       |
| Raffles                                                      | 916.00                                                                              | 862.00                        |
| Pitches                                                      | 90.00                                                                               | 125.00                        |
| Tombola                                                      | 291.00                                                                              | 324.65                        |
| Donations                                                    | 1088.61                                                                             | 475.35                        |
| Grants                                                       | 0.00                                                                                | 500.00                        |
| Events                                                       | 0.00                                                                                | 0.00                          |
| Christmas Tree                                               |                                                                                     |                               |
| Donations                                                    | 1398.75                                                                             | 0.00                          |
| Other Event Income                                           | 852.00                                                                              | 692.00                        |
|                                                              | <u>9088.96</u>                                                                      | <u>7568.00</u>                |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                           |                                                                                     |                               |
| Print & Stationery                                           | 149.86                                                                              | 41.50                         |
| Event Costs                                                  | 3197.47                                                                             | 3286.11                       |
| IT                                                           | 175.72                                                                              | 230.40                        |
| Misc                                                         | 94.04                                                                               | 56.58                         |
|                                                              | <u>3617.09</u>                                                                      | <u>3614.59</u>                |
| Net balance for period                                       | <u>5471.87</u>                                                                      | <u>3953.41</u>                |
| Balance b/f                                                  | 1126.41                                                                             | 6857.74                       |
| Unpaid 2025 designated grants c/fwd                          | 2600.00                                                                             |                               |
|                                                              | <u>9198.28</u>                                                                      | <u>10811.15</u>               |
| <b>Less:</b>                                                 |                                                                                     |                               |
| Grants Paid                                                  | 4465.00                                                                             | 7084.74                       |
| 2025 Designated Grants Paid                                  | 1932.89                                                                             | 2600.00                       |
| 2026 Designated Grants *                                     | 1500.00                                                                             |                               |
|                                                              | <u>7897.89</u>                                                                      | <u>9684.74</u>                |
| <b>Balance to c/fwd</b>                                      | <u><u>1300.39</u></u>                                                               | <u><u>1126.41</u></u>         |
| <b>Made up of:</b>                                           |                                                                                     |                               |
| Cash Balance                                                 | 30.00                                                                               | 50.00                         |
| Bank Balance                                                 | 2770.39                                                                             | 3676.41                       |
| Unpaid designated grants *                                   | 1500.00                                                                             | 2600.00                       |
|                                                              | <u><u>1300.39</u></u>                                                               | <u><u>1126.41</u></u>         |
| Report of the Accounts to the Northowram Scarecrow Committee |                                                                                     |                               |
| Prepared by M J Varley                                       |  |                               |
| J Green                                                      |  |                               |
| Audited by A Wright                                          |  |                               |
| Date                                                         |                                                                                     |                               |
| Actual Bank/Cash balance is                                  | 2800.39                                                                             |                               |

#### 4. Where does the money go?

After the event each year, and all expenses in running the event have been paid, any money left is made available to successful bids from within and for the betterment of Northowram and its Community.

This is done by people running various projects and community ventures that the NSE can provide funding for.

We are immensely proud to say that to date over **£39,100** has been distributed to many causes within Northowram and listed below are such projects that have received funding.

|                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| The Memorial Stone and Garden        | Repairs following accident      |
| Community Sports and Activity Centre | Defibrillator repairs           |
| Northowram Community Centre          | Roof repairs contribution       |
| Northowram Tennis Club               | Defibrillator contribution      |
| Northowram Primary School            | Refurb funding contribution     |
| Halifax Photographic Society         | Signage at the Community Centre |
| Northowram Fields CC                 | Cricket equipment               |



We look forward to helping many more worthy causes in future years!

#### 5. How to 'bid' for money to fund your project?

This may appear to be a daunting process, as we ask those looking for funding to abide by the guidelines laid down, so that the process is transparent and accountable for all.

Why do we have these rules? The money held in our accounts is “community money”, and we, as the committee, administer this accordingly to the guidelines we have set down.

The following pages show the guidelines and a sample copy of the form that must be completed. These can be downloaded from our website [www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk](http://www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk) and go to the ‘forms’ section. If you are unable to access the website, we can provide paper copies of the documents by contacting a committee member or emailing us at [northowramscarecrows@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:northowramscarecrows@hotmail.co.uk).

Just to clarify, the NSE committee’s only function is to allocate the funding, if appropriate, to future projects. We are not involved in organising, planning, or executing these projects, other than ensuring the money is spent on the items as requested in the original bid.

We are happy to help if someone is unsure if a bid, they wish to make is suitable or not, advice can be given regarding the type of project and the possible amount of funding available.

**Please, please ask us!**

## **Northowram Scarecrow Event**

### **Funding Bids Application form guidance notes (v9)**

Applying for funds from the NSE to support a new or ongoing cause is open to anyone, providing the following guidelines are adhered to. Any application that does not meet the set criteria will be rejected for that particular year, however, the bid could be re-submitted the following year providing any shortfalls have been overcome.

- 1 Submissions for funds must be for a project within the village boundary
- 2 Applications for business purposes are not allowed
- 3 Submissions can come from individuals or groups representing a village project, such as scouts, village societies etc, Churches, buildings like the Community Centre, or undeveloped community areas.
- 4 Monies provided should be towards something that can benefit the whole Community i.e., something that is available to the whole community if so wished
- 5 The project should not have any detrimental effect on the environment
- 6 Clear evidential proof should be provided such as
  - a) photographs of something needing replacement or repair
  - b) official quotations of costs to be incurred
  - c) evidence of other money raising factors assisting towards the outcome
  - d) start and end dates of the project where known (or estimations)
- 7 Please provide any written or photographic evidence of the enhancement that the money provided will bring to the project
- 8 Please then complete the application form, and, along with all the above please use one of the 3 options available below
  - a) pass to a NSE committee member
  - b) post in the Scarecrow letter box outside the newsagents on Northowram Green (opposite The Club)
  - c) email to [northowramscarecrows@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:northowramscarecrows@hotmail.co.uk)
- 9 Applications are normally scrutinised in July of each year, and funding issued before the financial year end of July 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Later applications than the usual closing date of June 30<sup>th</sup> maybe considered if sufficient funding is available and other criteria are met, subject to Committee approval.

## 5b. Funding Application Form



# NORTHOWRAM SCARECROW EVENT FUNDING APPLICATION FORM (v9)



Use this form to apply to the Northowram Scarecrow Event Community Fund for financial support for your community project. Please submit by **June 30<sup>th</sup>** in any given year. Successful applicants will be asked to display a plaque acknowledging funding received from Northowram Scarecrow Community Fund.

Applications will be reviewed in July the same year and results provided in August and ratified at the AGM in September. Later applications than the usual closing date of June 30<sup>th</sup> maybe considered if sufficient funding is available and other criteria are met, subject to Committee approval.

| 1. LEAD CONTACT NAME                                                                                            |                                                  |            |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Title:                                                                                                          |                                                  | First Name |           |
|                                                                                                                 |                                                  | Surname    |           |
| 2. ORGANISATION DETAILS                                                                                         |                                                  |            |           |
| Community Group:                                                                                                |                                                  |            |           |
| Address:                                                                                                        |                                                  |            |           |
| Post Town:                                                                                                      |                                                  | Telephone: |           |
| Postcode:                                                                                                       |                                                  | Mobile:    |           |
| E-Mail:                                                                                                         |                                                  | Date       |           |
| 3. PROJECT                                                                                                      |                                                  |            | Weighting |
| Please clearly describe how your project will help to                                                           |                                                  |            |           |
| a) improve the village environment:                                                                             |                                                  |            | 20        |
| b) benefit the community                                                                                        |                                                  |            | 15        |
| 4. PROJECT TIMEFRAMES (e.g. when the project will start, any relevant time constraints to keep in mind, etc...) |                                                  |            | Weighting |
| Please tell us:-                                                                                                |                                                  |            |           |
| a)                                                                                                              | When the project will start                      |            | 5         |
| b)                                                                                                              | When the project is expected to be complete      |            | 5         |
| c)                                                                                                              | What funding is required to complete the project |            | 5         |
| d)                                                                                                              | What plans you/your group have for fundraising   |            | 5         |
| e)                                                                                                              | Please provide a breakdown of costs              |            | 5         |
| 5. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE                                                                                          |                                                  |            | Weighting |
| Please provide us with any information on your project that will support your application                       |                                                  |            | 20        |
| Please describe any wide ranging impact on the community not included above                                     |                                                  |            | 20        |
| Recommendations                                                                                                 |                                                  |            | Total 100 |
| Signature:                                                                                                      |                                                  | Date:      |           |

## 6. What is the Northowram Scarecrow Event (NSE) for?

This is the constitution for the Northowram Scarecrow Event

# Aims, Objectives and Membership

Version 11 – April 2024

Next Review date April 2027

## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aim of Northowram Scarecrow Event is:

- to enhance a sense of community in the village
- to utilise monies raised during the event to benefit the community by supporting small local projects

The objective is to:

- raise the profile of Northowram village
- organise an annual community event that promotes inclusion of all the residents, businesses, churches, and community groups in the village which benefits the whole community.

## TRUSTEES

The Northowram Scarecrow Event will have 3 elected Trustees. They will play a key role in making sure the Northowram Scarecrow Event stays true to its aims & objectives, and it carries out its purposes for the benefit of the community and complies with its governing document. The Trustees will ensure resources are managed responsibly and the Northowram Scarecrow Event is accountable.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The committee will have a minimum of 12 members up to a maximum of 15, and membership is drawn from local businesses, community groups and residents. It is expected that fully elected committee members attend as many meetings as possible throughout the year to ensure continuity of the events planning process. Committee attendance will be reviewed every 6 months. If a committee member is unable to commit to attending meetings regularly their voting rights will be rescinded-

In addition, there can be an unlimited number of volunteers. Volunteers input, and support is invaluable, and they are welcome to all meetings, however there is no obligation to attend meetings. All Committee members (maximum 15) will have a right to vote at the AGM.

The Committee has five key officers, Chair, Vice Chair, 2 x Treasurers and Secretary (see Roles and Responsibility document for detailed outline of roles)

The Treasurer's role is jointly held by two people to ensure checks and balances are in place.

In addition, there are several other lead roles which are key to the smooth running of the annual event, and which ensure community wide inclusion, namely:

- Minutes Secretary
- Tombola co-ordinator
- Local Authority Link
- Risk Assessment/Health & Safety Lead
- Fundraising Co-ordinator & Business Link

All members representing community groups/churches/school will have an obligation to feedback to those groups on progress and decisions made.

The Term of office for 'Officers roles' will be three years. Those standing for re-election and nominations for replacement officers will be accepted and voted on at the AGM. All members standing for election for an Officers role must have been a member of the committee or worked with the committee as a volunteer for a minimum of one year. In the event of an officer vacating their post mid-term, an Extraordinary General Meeting [EGM] will be called to nominate and vote in a replacement officer. The new officers' three-year term will run from the next AGM.

In the event of the dissolution of the committee, any assets remaining after any debts and liabilities have been paid will be divided equally between:

- Northowram Community Centre
- Overgate Hospice
- Northowram Sports & Activities Club

Should one or more of the beneficiaries no longer exist monies will be divided/awarded to the remaining organisations.

## **MEETINGS**

The committee will meet monthly throughout the year except in December and weekly in April in the run up to the annual event held on May Day Bank Holiday each year. All dates to be published within the minutes of each meeting, which in turn are on the website, but dates may be subject to change.

Minutes are taken for all meetings and published on [www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk](http://www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk)

Voting at meetings shall be by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have a second and casting vote. The quorum shall be 50% of the minimum membership (i.e. 6 votes). In the event of less than 6 members being present at a meeting, discussions can be held, and recommendations made to the next committee meeting, but no decisions can be made.

## **FINANCE**

Northowram Scarecrows bank account holds all monies. The account requires two signatures (both Treasurers to perform this role).

The accounts will be audited annually and reported on to the AGM.

A separate Bids Sub-Group has been established to review/evaluate bids, for funding from monies raised, against a pre-set criterion. All applications for funding to be received by 30<sup>th</sup> June of each year. This group will meet once a year in July; their recommendations must be ratified by the Committee at the next ordinary meeting, with outcomes being delivered in August and published at the AGM.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

An annual general meeting will be held each year on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in September.

AGM business to include:

- Reports from the Chair and Finance.
- Suggestions will be collected from those attending, to be considered by the committee at future meetings.

The Annual General Meeting will be the final meeting of the business year and all new members and officers' roles will be voted on at the AGM. A current list of Committee members and officers is published on the website at [www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk](http://www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk).

## 7. NSE TRUSTEES and COMMITTEE 2025/26

### Trustees

|                   |
|-------------------|
| Steve Amos        |
| Martin Hey        |
| Steve Collingwood |

### Committee

| <u>TITLE</u>                           | <u>NAME</u>                   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chair                                  | Janet Green                   |
| Vice Chair                             | John Kirwan                   |
| Joint Treasurer                        | Janet Green                   |
| Joint Treasurer and St Matthews Rep    | Molly J Varley                |
| Acting Secretary/Minutes Secretary     | Al                            |
| Communications Lead                    | Martin Hey                    |
| Event Director                         | Richard Priestley             |
| The Club, Northowram                   | Alison McManus<br>Janet Green |
| Activities Co-ordinators               | Phil Ward/David Rawlings      |
| Event Photographer                     | Elaine Caffrey                |
| Corporate Sponsorship and Fund Raising | John Kirwan                   |
| Tombola Co-ordinator                   | David Rawlings/ Phil Ward     |
| Upper Lane Stables                     | Lynn Jagger                   |
| Raffle Co-ordinator                    | Elaine Hey                    |
| Local Authority Link                   | Elaine Hey                    |
| Risk Assessment/Health & Safety        | John Kirwan                   |
| The Windmill Tavern                    | Jo Nixon                      |
| NSE programme and Website              | Steve Collingwood             |

These were the Committee members for the last 12 months, we are always looking to the next generation of volunteers to help us with a view to joining our Committee at some point thereafter.

If anyone feels that they would like to join us, then let us know and we can invite you to one of our committee meetings to introduce yourself to us and vice versa. Joining initially as a volunteer you could come to all or just a few of the meetings initially, help us at the next event, and if you are still willing to join the committee fully you would be nominated at the following AGM.

We ask that committee members attend most of our meetings (once a month on a Wednesday) to ensure continuity of information and organisation.

If this is for you, please contact us.

## 8. Armistice Day Service 2026

It is our intention to hold our usual Armistice Day Service for 2026, on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, from 10.50 am for a 10.55 am start at The Memorial Stone and Garden, Northowram Green.

The service is open to all with readings and collective remembrance to those who have taken part in all conflicts past and present.



Lest we forget!

## 9. Northowram Scarecrow Event 2027

Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2027.

Please update your Calendars **NOW**.



## 10. Where to find us

Please see page 13 for committee members. Contact any member of the committee by one of the following methods:

By email to:



[northowramscarecrows@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:northowramscarecrows@hotmail.co.uk)

On Facebook at:



[northowram scarecrow event](#)

By post:



[Letterbox outside Northowram News, Northowram - opposite The Club.](#)

For the latest information and much more please visit us on our website at:

[www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk](http://www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk)

**This booklet will be available to view on our website**

## Northowram Scarecrow Event

*'supporting your community'*

