

A photograph of a modern office reception area. A person is seated behind a reception desk made of horizontal wooden slats. The desk has a dark base and a light-colored top. On the desk, there are some papers and a vase with colorful flowers. To the left, there is a large green plant. The floor is made of light-colored wood. Four orange pendant lights hang from the ceiling. The text 'COMMUNITY' is overlaid in a black box with yellow letters.

COMMUNITY

LIVES HERE

HEBDEN BRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LTD ANNUAL REPORT

LOOKING BACK TO 2012, LOOKING FORWARD TO 2013

INNOVATIVE, CREATIVE,

PIONEERING AND ENTERPRISING

The Town Hall is the beating heart of Hebden Bridge's rich community, business and democratic life, a shining example of what can be achieved by local effort with the support of a forward-looking council and others.

It is a place where people meet, work, collaborate, do business, socialise, entertain themselves and celebrate – united by a shared sense of community. The Town Hall provides a wide range of services and activities but what we think sets us apart is the way all of these mesh together in a place where ideas flourish, creativity thrives and where people have fun and feel at home, be they residents, businesses, councillors and council staff, or visitors to the town.



REBUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

AFTER A SUMMER OF FLOODS

This was an extremely exciting year for the Community Association – but unfortunately a difficult year for our town.

We feel proud to have played our part alongside many others in the recovery and rebuilding of Hebden Bridge after the disastrous summer floods. An emergency flood advice service was provided from the Town Hall immediately after the first floods and the new Waterfront Hall became the venue for a host of fundraising events including the very successful auction of work donated by local artists which raised over £6,000. The town's first Food and Drink Festival, held at the Town Hall over a week in October, was a key part of the successful efforts by local businesses and the Town and Calderdale Councils to bring back visitors.

The floods have inevitably focused attention on the dangers of climate change. The Association aims to manage the Town Hall in an environmentally sustainable manner and the new buildings are highly energy efficient. We encourage the use of sustainable transport and active travel by our users and visitors.



A PLACE FOR ALL

MAKING THE TOWN HALL THE HEART OF OUR TOWN'S LIFE



With the completion of our £3.4m development of business spaces and community facilities during 2012 the Town Hall now offers a range of top-class public spaces from small meeting rooms to the multi-functional Waterfront Hall. A superb riverside courtyard has been created overlooked by a community lounge and café. The work has also allowed the original

Town Hall buildings to be made fully accessible by those with mobility difficulties.

Our small enterprise units are almost fully occupied by an exciting range of local businesses mainly in the creative, digital and media sector. Many of these have formed beneficial relationships with others in the building and with the wider community and our business tenants are far more than just a source of income – vital as this is – they are integral to much of what we do.

The Town Hall continues to provide a base for Hebden Royd Town Council and for aspects of Calderdale Council, notably the Neighbourhood Office and the Customer First public drop-in facility. Local parish councils and Craig Whittaker MP also make regular use of the building.

Numerous voluntary and community organisations use the building on a regular or ad hoc basis and we organised a successful Community Fair in October to enable many of these groups to promote their activities to the town. There was also a well-attended Heritage Festival in September drawing attention to the historic role of the Town Hall – something we hope to take forward via an application to



the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2013 which will, if successful, provide both much-needed restoration work to the original building and opportunities for residents and visitors, especially younger people, to learn about Hebden Bridge's rich civic heritage.

We work very closely with Hebden Bridge Arts Festival who are now based in the Town Hall, and have also hosted other cultural events including the Folk Roots Festival and the Christmas Nutcracker family show which was highly popular. A new national piano festival will take place at the Town Hall in 2013, specifically to take advantage of our new facilities.

A selection of some of the other high-profile events which have taken place in the Waterfront Hall in the five months since it opened includes:

- An edition of BBC Radio 4's "Any Questions"
- A national conference organised with Locality and Calderdale Council
- Other national and regional conferences organised by Pennine Prospects, The Prince's Trust, Locality (again), Yorkshire Local Councils Association and Upper Calder Valley Renaissance.

Finally, the Town Hall continues to provide a venue for weddings and civil partnerships and the new facilities offer both an alternative and an adjunct to ceremonies held in the delightful and traditional Council Chamber. We work with several local businesses from florists to caterers to jewellers to maximise the overall economic benefits to the town of weddings and civil partnerships.



THE MANAGEMENT

The Association has ten Trustees, elected annually, and a core team of three staff. Our Executive Director is Sarah Lister-Blow and our Business Development Officer is Amy Leader. In December we said goodbye to our Administrator, Sue Graham, who was our first paid employee and played a big part in getting us to where we are now. At the time of writing we have not yet appointed her replacement. We also said goodbye to Chris Mackins who had been employed on a short-term contract to help develop the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Our cafe is run on a short-term contract by two local caterers working together, and we are also in the process of employing some sessional staff to help out with managing events – so our core staff no longer have to work such crazy hours!

Important as Trustees and staff are, the Town Hall could not run without the help of a remarkable and dedicated body of volunteers who do everything from staffing the reception desk to helping in the office to stewarding and other help with events. We are, of course, always on the lookout for new volunteers.

Peter Hirst is the Chair of our Board of Trustees which meets monthly, with various specific meetings taking place in between times. Elections are held annually in November and trustees are elected for three-year terms, but serving a maximum of two terms. This November we had to lose the services of a founder trustee, Andrew Bibby, whose six-year stint had come to an end. We are more indebted to Andrew than words can express and wish him well – and of course welcome his continued involvement with the Town Hall.

The Community Association is a membership body. Our members are known as Friends of the Town Hall and are entitled to vote at general meetings. The Trustees are elected by the members and accountable to them, and we always welcome new members.

The Association is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. We are members of several national and local bodies including Locality, Community Matters, Co-operatives UK, Hebden Bridge Business Association and Hebden Bridge Partnership.

Funding (a combination of grants and loans) to provide the new business and community facilities was mainly provided by the European Regional Development Fund, Key Fund, and Community Builders with several local organisations and individuals making important contributions.



TAKING CARE OF THE FINANCES

Our accounting year runs from September to August, and our audited 2011-12 accounts are available on our website and on the Charity Commission website.

Our ‘headline’ accounts, which show a significant surplus for the year, are complicated this year by the capital build. Our auditor advises us that, under SORP (charity accounting rules), the funds received for the capital works are required to be shown as income received whilst the corresponding expenditure has been capitalised directly on the balance sheet. Further, this year’s accounts capitalise some expenditure shown on the 2010-11 accounts, resulting in a negative entry under unrestricted resources expended. These together explain the apparently very high level of surplus.

Accounts summary, Year ended 31 August 2012

	2011/12 (£)			2010/11 (£)
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Incoming resources				
Voluntary income	33,720	1,295,000	1,328,724	600,507
Activities for generating funds	155	-	155	350
Investment income	2,537	-	2,537	821
Income from charitable activities	48,910	-	48,910	59,785
Resources expended			416,450	130,179
Charitable activities	(181,769)	7,525	(174,244)	356,012
Governance costs	4,343	-	4,343	5,705
Net income for year	262,748	1,287,479	1,550,227	299,746

supported by:



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Hebden Bridge Community Association is a democratically run community-based charitable trust.

The Association manages and maintains the Town Hall, Hebden Bridge. The original Victorian building, the object of an asset transfer from our local council Calderdale in 2010, has now been complemented by brand-new community and enterprise facilities, funded and developed through the work of the Association's trustees and staff.

Hebden Bridge is one of the first communities in Britain to take over and develop its Town Hall in this way.

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