



Annual Report 2019 / 2020



**Registered Company No: 5860971
Registered Charity No: 1116430**

CVA Blyth Valley Annual Report 2019 / 2020

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Chairman's Report

I am happy to report that 2019/2020 has been another busy and successful year for CVABV.

Closer working with key partners has enabled and supported our services to continue, ensuring local VCS groups receive the quality advice and support they deserve.

The climate for infrastructure remains a concern, nationally, not just locally, whilst we may recognise and value the services provided, some funders prefer to see funding go to direct delivery groups, and whilst we know the importance of grassroots work, we also recognise that a number of those groups would not exist without infrastructure support, appropriate governing documents, policies and procedures would not be in place and groups wouldn't know the best funder to go to.

A co-ordinated, quality infrastructure support service helps groups to have the correct building blocks in place, the firm foundations to know they are managing their services and support successfully.

And it is the fact that groups can demonstrate successful delivery that will attract funding to improve and increase the range and the quality of services to our local communities.

Thankfully we do have a number of funders that share our view in the importance of infrastructure and provide us with the necessary funds to provide that support. We are grateful to Blyth Town Council and Seaton Valley Community Council, for their continued support, and to the many trust funders who support our work.

We are grateful to the partners we contract with to provide more direct support, partnership working is a key factor in harnessing the specialism within different organisations for mutual benefit.

I would like to end by offering my thanks to my fellow trustees at CVABV for their unwavering support and to the staff team who continue to deliver above and beyond the expectations of many.

2020/21 looks like it may bring a number of challenges to the sector with the emergence of the Covid-19 virus, CVABV will be looking at the best ways possible to support the sector during what promises to be a very uncertain time

Dave Johnston
Chair



Treasurer's Report

2019/20 has been a financially stable year for CVABV, we did receive a couple of grants towards the end of the previous year that we have fully used during this financial year.

As a consequence, our income is lower during this financial year down from £63050 to £54097 (-8953).

Expenditure has risen during 2019/20, but only very slightly up from £54463 to £54502 (+39).

As a result in place of the surplus last year of £8587 we finish the year with a small loss of £405.

Whilst this is not too much to worry about, it does still leave CVABV just short of the Charity Commissions minimum reserves level of 3 months worth of expenditure.

CVABV use this figure as our benchmark and will work towards this figure in the coming financial year.

We look forward to the challenge that 2020/21 brings.

David Vaughan
Treasurer



Summary of Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year Ended 31 March 2020

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	Notes	£	£
<u>Income From:</u>			
Activities to further our objects:			
Grants Received etc		54,097	63,050
<u>Expenditure On:</u>			
Operating Expenditure		<u>54,502</u>	<u>54,463</u>
<u>Net Movement in Funds</u>	3	(405)	8,587
Total Funds Brought Forward		<u>13,793</u>	<u>5,206</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward	£	<u><u>13,388</u></u>	<u><u>13,793</u></u>

None of our activities were acquired or discontinued and there were no recognised gains or losses other than as shown above during the above two financial years.



Project Report

2019/20 continued to be a challenging year for CVABV with growing demand from our local communities and the continued limitations on the amount of support we can provide.

Thankfully our approach of being proactive in supporting groups to work better together helps to meet a number of emerging local needs by utilising the skills and abilities we have within the local VCS.

The communication and signposting services we provide to individuals, to public sector agencies and other VCS groups often results in alleviating immediate needs and concerns, leading to greater understanding and improved partnership work for the future.

Once again, the staff and trustees have worked well together in determining priorities and my thanks go to them for their continued support and commitment.

As we approached the last few months of 2020, the Corona virus pandemic increased its impact on our local communities and those groups supporting the local community.

We do not, as yet, know the impact of the virus, but are sure it will cause significant disruption and distress to many.

We are currently reorganising our work to support those agencies directly involved in alleviating those in greatest need, working with other VCS partners and statutory partners to maximise available resources.

2020/21 promises to be a very difficult year for all concerned.

T S Bradley
Chief Executive Officer



Funding Advice

Funding and financial sustainability are a priority for all voluntary and community organisations regardless of whether they are just starting out or have been going for a number of years.

We can help local community groups at every stage of the funding process to secure the funds they need to deliver their valuable services. Finding the money to run projects and activities has always been a challenge to many community groups.

We take the needs of each individual organisation into consideration and tailor our response to those needs. Some will need one-to-one intensive help, especially with groups applying for the first time, whilst other more established groups may just need us to identify an appropriate funder for their project. We also work closely with committees to ensure their policies are up to date and appropriate procedures are in place and help them to submit quality funding applications.

Our advice and support includes:

- **Identifying who to apply to for funding**
- **Our ezine provides information on funding opportunities**
- **Planning your project and putting together a budget**
- **Developing funding applications**
- **Reviewing funding applications, prior to submission, and provide constructive feedback**
- **Ensuring that applications match the grant-giving criteria of funders**
- **Independent referee support**
- **Post grant assistance with monitoring reports**

CVABV funding advice service is as busy as ever responding to the demands of our local voluntary and community groups, providing advice, information and training to help local VCS organisations become more confident and self-reliant in fundraising.



Community Development

CVABV provides a grassroots self-help approach to community development, offering support, advice, information, and training to new and existing community/residents groups and voluntary organisations in Blyth, Cramlington and Seaton Valley.

CVABV community development services include a wide range of capacity building and community development services designed to give the volunteers running local community and voluntary groups the know-how to carry out their services more effectively and make a difference in their local community. We aim to support volunteers to enable them to fully participate in the matters impacting their communities. We can help new groups to form, constitute themselves, and become sustainable and productive.

We target our resources where they are most needed often working in hard to reach communities who need one-to-one support. We show the volunteers running the community group how to do things for themselves so the groups they represent become much more independent and equipped with many of the skills they need to deliver their services more effectively. We have a successful track record in supporting local groups to develop new initiatives and in attracting the necessary funding and resources to address local needs.

Our community development services include advice and support on:

- **How to start a community group**
- **Advice about appropriate legal structures**
- **Applying to become a registered charity**
- **Skills development of Trustees**
- **Drafting and adopting constitutions**
- **Policies and procedures**
- **Safeguarding procedures**
- **Financial controls**
- **Project planning**
- **Promoting and publicising your project**
- **Monitoring and evaluation**

Testimonials & Thanks

“The support Northern Butterflies has received from CVA was fantastic. CVABV acted for us as an advisory group when we required up to date Safe Guarding issues around charities and pandemic.

CVA has also supported the organisation with a reliable company regarding DBS checks”

**Samantha Goodlet
Northern Butterflies**

“This year our thoughts had been to become a charity and Pauline at CVABV has been immensely helpful in guiding us through what it means, the correct selection of organisational structure and how to navigate the information available on line.

Explaining the benefits of becoming a charity and helping us re format our constitution to meet the rigorous standards required has been invaluable”

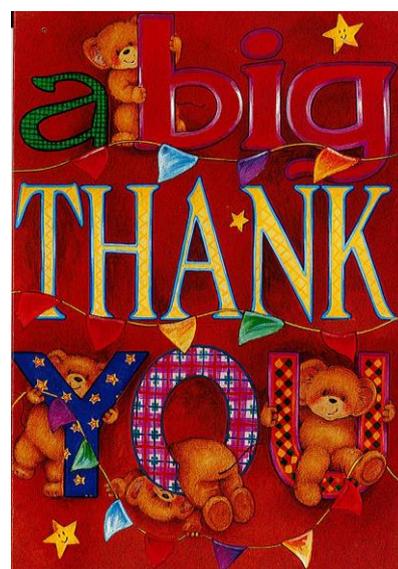
**John Ainsley
New Delaval Knights Bowling Club**

Testimonials & Thanks (continued)



“On behalf of all of the kids at Blyth Spartans Juniors and the Committee, thank you for all your help. All the Best”

“Thank you so much to the staff at CVABV for the help given to our group, ie funding applications, setting up a group, constitutional advice, etc”



“On behalf of our voluntary group please accept our sincere thanks for all the help and support given”

Publications / Communications

E-zines, Facebook, Twitter and Website

CVA Blyth Valley communicates with local voluntary and community groups in Blyth, Cramlington and Seaton Valley by producing the following:



E-zines – keeping local VCS up to date with our email news bulletin produced every two weeks with information on current issues, funding opportunities and VCS news. This is emailed to almost 200 contacts. The e-zine is extremely effective in informing our local groups about events and activities as well as funding deadlines.



Facebook – our social media presence keeping in contact with our groups and a regular source of up-to-date news, information and facts.



Twitter – instantly connecting us with voluntary and community groups as well as friends and colleagues. Get imminent updates on things of interest.



Website – visit our new website at www.cvabv.org.uk

Our e-zines and social media can be used to promote local events and meetings, obtain funding advice, seek information on funders' criteria, see what's on in the area and to find out about other local projects.

CVABV welcomes contributions from local VCS groups and local authorities who may have items of interest which are relevant to our local area. If you would like to be included on our database please contact us by emailing info@cvabv.org.uk

Information Sheets

CVABV have **FREE** easy to understand Information Sheets covering a variety of topics to enable effective management for our local voluntary and community groups.

- **Applying for Funding for the First Time**
- **Charitable Status**
- **Financial Management**
- **Fit for Funding**
- **Legal Structures**
- **Monitoring & Evaluation**
- **Policy and Procedures**
- **Roles & Responsibilities of Management Committees**
- **Starting a New Group**
- **Who Can be a Trustee**

The above information sheets are available to download from our website at:

<http://www.cvabv.org.uk>



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Trustees

CVA Blyth Valley Executive Committee Members for 2019 / 2020:

David Johnston	Chairman
Mark Beresford	Vice Chair
David Vaughan	Treasurer
Paul Smith	Executive Committee Member
Craig Nicholson	Executive Committee Member
Kath Nisbett	NCC Representative

Staff

Thom Bradley	Chief Executive
Pauline Blake	Capacity Building Officer
Sybil Pattie	Administrator



Acknowledgements

CVABV would like to acknowledge that the services and support we provide and ongoing projects would not have been possible without the dedicated help of voluntary workers, the provision of funding, community organisations and establishments in Blyth, Cramlington and Seaton Valley.

Our sincere thanks go to:

- Awards for All
- Barbour Foundation
- Blyth Town Council
- Community Foundation
- Cramlington Town Council
- Hadrian Trust
- Hospital of God at Greatham
- Joicey Trust
- Ridley Family Charity
- R W Mann Trust
- Seaton Valley Town Council

And last but not least, the officers and members of the Management Committee, the staff at CVA Blyth Valley and other members of the community who have contributed during the year.

