

Penistone Matters

Focussing on your local area



Hello and Welcome...

In Barnsley, we realise that simply doing things the way we have always done them will not help us to respond both to the significant challenges faced by local government and the expectations of residents. A new way of working is required.

The borough has been divided into six area councils with the two Wards of Penistone East and Penistone West forming one of them. Each area has its own priorities which are set locally following consultation with local people and in our case with the thirteen parishes. The Penistone Area covers over half the borough but has only 12% of its population. Essentially rural in nature it has different needs from the rest of urban Barnsley but with over 150 active groups it has a long history of self-reliance.

The Area Council, made up of the six borough Councillors representing the Penistone Wards,

commissions services with a strong social value to address the strategic priorities of the area.

The Ward Alliance, which is made up of Councillors working alongside representatives of local organisations to encourage volunteering and increase the capacity of communities to help themselves. The Ward Alliance disposes of a budget to assist groups enhance their activities in line with the area priorities provided those groups match the funding with volunteer time.

Progress has been encouraging and we believe the Penistone Area is well placed to adapt to the challenges which the future will bring.

Penistone's priorities are:

- The environment
- The local economy including tourism
 - Roads and road safety
 - Health and well-being
- Activities for young people



Robert Barnard

Councillor Robert Barnard
Chair of the Penistone
Area Council



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Penistone Area Team



@PenistoneTeam

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The Work Of Penistone Ward Alliance

The work of Penistone Ward Alliance

Penistone Ward Alliance was established in 2013 and is a working partnership between members of the local community/community groups/parish councils, business and faith sectors and Penistone Area Council. Its members come from both Penistone East and Penistone West Wards. Presently Penistone Ward Alliance has 18 members.

The group meets every six weeks throughout the year at Penistone Town Hall to discuss ways of addressing local issues, undertake action planning and administer funding to community led groups and agencies who are trying to 'make a positive difference' to their area.

During the financial year 2014/15 the group allocated 99% of its available funds (£20,000) with 58% of the money going towards improving and/or maintaining the environment and a further 32% to positive activities for young people. The rest of the funding for last financial year went towards improving the

economy and the creation of the Penistone Neighbourhood Network - all of which are priorities of the Penistone Area Council.

Although the Ward Alliance has a much smaller budget than the Area Council it does have the opportunity to influence larger projects by discussing and elevating issues/ideas up to the Area Council. An example of this is the introduction of a 'Clean and Tidy Service' to the town, parishes, villages and hamlets which make up the wards of Penistone East and West. By the time you read this article the Clean and Tidy Team will be operating in your area working with community groups and organisations to tackle environment issues which are above and beyond the work of Barnsley's Neighbourhood Pride Team.

Applications forms for the Ward Alliance Fund can be obtained from John Openshaw by telephone 01226 773012 or emailing: johnopenshaw@barnsley.gov.uk

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Area Council Commissioned Work

Walls And Woods - Training In Countryside Skills

In recognition that not everyone wants to follow the academic route to employment, in September 2014 Penistone Area Council commissioned the proprietor Tom Handley from 'Growforest' to deliver training locally in countryside skills, hedge laying and dry stone walling.

Originally the scheme was aimed at 16 to 24 year olds living in the Penistone area but following an initial slow take up, and despite Growforest offering 'taster sessions' locally Penistone Area Council agreed to widen the offer to include a higher age range and more extensive geographical catchment area.

To date 24 trainees have attended the course with 16 of those gaining the Lantra Level 1 qualification in dry stone walling. In addition to basic countryside skills, including woodworking and basket weaving, the trainees are offered advice on enterprise and self-employment.

Two trainees also came 1st and 2nd in the Yorkshire Dry Stone Walling Guild Annual Competition held in July this year.

The course was due to end in September 2015 but has been extended to 31 March 2016 because of its success and popularity.

For anyone interested in the Walls and Woods project please contact Tom Handley on 07787 176 242.



Penistone Area Council Commissioned Work

Clean And Tidy Team

One of the main priorities for Penistone Area Council and the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, and highlighted by local people is the improvement and maintenance of our local environment. However in times of austerity and budget cuts and with Penistone's wide geographical spread it isn't always possible to keep our villages and parishes in the 'tip top' condition we would like to see them. So at its meeting held on 21 May 2015 Penistone Area Council identified £160,000 from its own commissioning budget be allocated to buying in some additional clean and tidy activity for the area. The service is designed to complement and build upon existing volunteering activity being delivered by parish councils and community groups and to encourage new activity.

In the spirit of working together, members of the local parish councils and ward alliance members met with the Penistone area team and local elected members to contribute to and help design the specification which went out to tender in early July 2015.

By the time you are reading this the new Clean and Tidy Team will be actively out and about working with members of the local community, parish councils, businesses and schools towards enhancing and improving our local environment.

Parish councils, schools, community groups and/or businesses in the Penistone area wishing to put forward ideas for 'clean and tidy activity' should contact John Openshaw in the first instance on 01226 773012 or email: johnopenshaw@barnsley.gov.uk or alternatively call in to the Penistone Area Team Office, Penistone Town Hall, Shrewsbury Road, S70 6DY to discuss your idea.

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Planting Penistone's Newest Community Orchard



By Dave Griffin and Andrew Elves

On 19th September 2015, Angela Smith MP officially opened the new community garden and footpath linking the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) to Heathercliff Way on the Saunderson Gardens estate in Penistone. This garden included a community orchard and herb garden, a bat, bee and bird friendly area, and a wild flower meadow.

But just one year earlier this area looked entirely different. It was an overgrown wasteland with a muddy track leading through it. The TPT boundary was marked by broken concrete posts from a long-gone fence.

Resident Andrew Elves was fed up with the state of this short cut to town. He spoke to Councillor Dave Griffin and they decided to see whether other residents would help to improve it.

At a well-attended public meeting in October 2014, Saunderson Gardens Residents' Association was formed. A plan for a new community garden was presented at the meeting by Barnsley Council's Rights of Way officer and the project was underway.

The group of volunteers from the estate met throughout the winter months to clear all the rubble, weeds and litter. They put in more than two hundred hours work on this. People who had just been passing acquaintances before the project started, became good friends as a result of the volunteering days. Guidance and advice came from a local horticulturist and the Rights of Way Team at the Council.

The Penistone West ward councillors were impressed by the efforts of the residents' association and recommended them for three grants as the project progressed. £10,000 came from Barnsley Council Section 106 fund and two smaller ones were given by Penistone Ward Alliance.

This project is a wonderful example of the community and Barnsley Council working together to improve where we live.





Penistone Young People's Centre Project - 'Adopt a Bench'

"Adopt a Bench " is a project which has engaged young people in contributing to their local community, by learning how to construct a hardwood bench from locally coppiced timber for young and old make use of within their local area.

With funding from Penistone Ward Alliance and volunteer time contribution from the young people the project worked with an experienced forest/crafts person to build benches which are to be sited throughout the Penistone area. Local groups will be able to put forward requests for benches to be installed at nominated locations. There have already been several requests following the 'Eagle' bench being sited outside the Young Peoples Centre in Penistone.

Through this project young people have been offered the chance to learn skills for life - which can be used on their journey into the adult world of work and training.

The benches will be constructed in the workshop at Penistone Young People Centre, and on completion they will be sited in their new locations by the young people's team and the leaders.

The benches will all have individual designs, which will have been agreed with each group.

The intergeneration work - will help foster positive relationships between all ages, and groups, adding further value to this "LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE" project.

Thurgoland

Thanks to a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery Awards4All scheme and other fundraising in the village, Thurgoland's Youth Centre, home to TOOSC (Thurgoland Out Of School Club) had a complete makeover in the summer holidays. The old ceiling was replaced; all asbestos removed and new energy efficient lighting was installed as part of a complete rewire.

The Village Hall and Youth Centre has also had super-fast broadband installed! Following the work volunteers helped redecorate the centre, building new shelving, putting up bright wall transfers and a new carpet, financed through a £1,900 grant from the Ward Alliance Fund.

To celebrate the completion of the work the Village Welfare Committee, staff from TOOSC, parents and children attended a special opening night when Councillor John Wilson (back centre), who was instrumental in helping the Welfare Committee acquire the centre for the children of the village.

BELOW: Thanks to Lia and the ladies from TOOSC who baked special celebration buns and laid on a delicious buffet. Thanks also to John Roebuck, (back left) whose firm completed the work on time, on budget and to a very high standard. Pat Finn (back right - Chair of the Welfare Committee) was there to plan the next stage of the work - in the Village Hall! It was also nice to see so many of the children who use TOOSC daily - they're thrilled with their new centre!



Celebrating Our Local Environment - A Flouch Walk

Allen Pestell, Chair, Dunford Parish Council

We start at the Flouch where there is parking as well as a bus service from Barnsley, Penistone and Stocksbridge.

The Old Flouch cottage was the inn built by George Howard; he had what was described as a 'slouch lip' from which the name 'Flouch' is derived. The old road in the direction of Manchester leads to a bridleway between farm houses and was once used by Charlotte Bronte when visiting the Eyre family whose name she borrowed for her novel Jane Eyre.

Continuing along the edge of the moor to the Trans-Pennine Trail, we cross the bridge and follow the Trail in the direction of Penistone. The Ward Alliance has funded several projects in the area such as information boards highlighting the wild flower areas here and along the trail developed over the last year.

If we go over the foot bridge at Bullhouse we can walk to the next bridge which crosses over the trail. Following the path downhill to the foot bridge over the Don we can then go uphill to view Hazlehead Hall which had been the home of Adam Eyre; this is fronted by a stone ha-ha, a wall which cannot be seen from the Hall.

A ha-ha is a recessed landscape design element that creates a vertical barrier whilst preserving an

uninterrupted view of the landscape beyond. The design includes a turfed incline which slopes downward to a sharply vertical face, typically a masonry retaining wall. We can now retrace our steps and cross the Trail by the bridge towards a gate on the left and then walk parallel to the Trail and alongside the Don which at this point near its source has the cleanest water in South Yorkshire.

The paved way rises towards Bullhouse Hall, the ancestral home of the Rich family. Capt. Wm. Rich and Capt. Adam Eyre were invited to London to view the execution of King Charles I. This appears to be the only recompense they received for their service in Cromwell's army as neither were ever paid! There is also Bullhouse Chapel; built by the Rich family which includes the curious feature of double seated earth closets, male and female back to back.

Leaving Bullhouse behind us we follow the Trail towards Penistone and cross the road to the Bullhouse picnic area. Here we can study the information boards which describe the rail disaster in 1884 which was caused by carriages becoming uncoupled from the train.

From this point we can re-trace our steps back towards Dunford and then to our starting point at the Flouch.

“ I went by footpaths and by stile
Beyond where bustle ends
Strayed here a mile and there a mile
and called upon some friends

Thomas Hardy ”

Huskar Community Rooms

Silkstone Parish Council is pleased to announce the completion of the new Huskar Community Rooms (named after the Huskar Pit) located at the back of the Silkstone petrol station.

The old concrete and asbestos Scout Hut needed to be replaced as it was no longer fit for purpose. Fundraising started and was quite successful, but couldn't keep up with the rising cost of building materials. Silkstone Parish Council got involved securing a public works loan allowing the project to get underway. After a number of setbacks, Nicholson Roberts of Penistone came to the rescue and were appointed as contractor. The quality of the finished building is testament to the professional running of the project between the Parish Council's appointed project manager at Spring & Co and the management at Nicholson Roberts as well as the skills of their labour force.

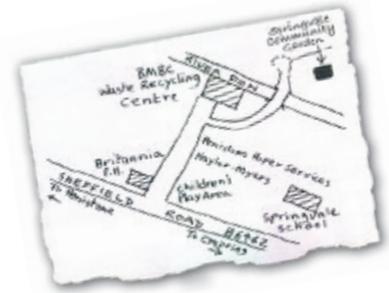
The management committee is grateful to the numerous groups and individuals who donated their money, goods and time that have enabled the rooms to open. A big thank you to you all!

The children from the Cubs, Scouts, explorer scouts, Brownies, Guides and the Maria Penrose School of dance are all excited to be in a new modern facility. New user groups include kickboxing and craft classes. The facilities are suitable for meetings, exercise classes and children's parties. If you or your group is interested in making a booking please contact the bookings manager paul.denton16@btinternet.com



Springvale Community Garden

sustainable food growing community



A Hidden Gem In The Heart Of Springvale

Springvale Community Garden is a vibrant community asset which is becoming increasingly well known for the opportunities for volunteering as well as excellent seasonal vegetables, fruit and plants. It is a 4 acre site on 2 sides of the River Don in Springvale, Penistone.

People who haven't visited for a while will be amazed at the progress on the site. Until the mid-1970's the site was the sewage works for Penistone. After that it became a training area for long-term unemployed people, then a commercial nursery. When it closed at the end of 2006 the site fell into dereliction. It was then handed in trust to Penistone and District Community Partnership who decided to continue the gardening tradition at the site and to develop it as a community garden. Now Springvale Community Garden is a charity in its own right with the aim of providing:

- Education about growing and healthy eating.
- Conservation of the diverse habitat on the site.
- Purposeful Recreation. Opportunities to get actively involved in a worthwhile and enjoyable project

The area on the South side of the River Don is now a nature haven. Volunteers have worked hard to improve access and to create a picnic area.



Restoration work began on the Garden in the summer of 2008. Gradually volunteers have cleared the site and created...

- a unique Physic Garden - a demonstration garden of medicinal, culinary and other useful plants.
- raised beds, greenhouse and poly-tunnels for vegetable growing
- an orchard
- a gorgeous flower border
 - a pond, bug hotels and other wildlife habitats.
 - a nature haven and picnic area on the South side of the River Don.

Now it is growing into a place where the whole community can find something that gives them a better quality of life. The garden has been supported by Penistone Ward Alliance funding which has helped with materials for renovations and equipment. Local businesses have helped too. The garden is run entirely by volunteers who look after the site and raise the plants and vegetables.

They are always open to new volunteer, school groups, corporate volunteers. If you would like to visit call on Wednesday or Saturday between 10am and 2pm and you'll find a warm welcome.

See what they are up to on Facebook www.facebook.com/springvalecommunitygarden or contact 01226 765892

Hoylandswaine

June and July were certainly the months for galas, festivals, open days - whatever the name the sentiment is the same, people outdoors enjoying long light evenings and the chance to have a drink, some entertainment and a good old natter. (notice I make no mention of sunshine and showers this year!).

Festivals give a good opportunity for individuals and organisations to show what they do and even recruit new members. One of the good things about festivals is that you can try out new activities without a long term commitment. If you like it you can continue but, hey! no pressure.

This is just what is happening in Hoylandswaine. Last year the village launched its first festival in celebration of the restoration of the mural in the parish church, painted by John Roddam Spencer Stanhope when the church was built in 1869 - with funds from his family at Cannon Hall. The mural had been lost to sight since the early '60s but thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, and a great deal of support from the local community and Area Council - Ward Alliance it is now restored in its full glory, and was seen to best advantage when the international chamber group, Ensemble 360 gave their first ever concert in Hoylandswaine to a full church.

This was the stimulus for the creation of a community banner, community mural, well dressing and art exhibition.

Has Hoylandswaine Got Talent!!! In bucket loads! Nowhere more evident than in the Scarecrow Trail. Wonderland itself was never so full of Alices. In fact, Alice on her bike was a most effective traffic calmer, on the straight bit of Haigh Lane where feet tend to be a bit heavy on the accelerator.

Hoylandswaine is also well regarded on the cricket scene and, blest with very fine weather the teams carried the day on both weekends of the festival. Hoylandswaine Hill Runners are a great inspiration to the youngsters who literally rose to the challenge of the hills. The following year, 2015, we added clog dancing, ukulele band and village choir to the menu - ukulele playing and singing will definitely be continuing. In all 12 or 13 distinctive groups within the village are working together and plans for next year are already well under way. So, 'keep the date'. We have ordered summer for next year and it should stretch from mid-June to July.

See you then.

Elizabeth Charlesworth



Hunshelf Parish Council - **A Library with a difference!**

Disused telephone box transformed into village asset...

A group of local residents have joined forces to turn an obsolete telephone box in the heart of Green Moor into a local paper and book exchange.

With funding from the Penistone East & West Ward Alliance the book exchange was restored to its former glory with authentic materials.

Volunteers spent many hours replacing broken glass panes, corroded frames and repainting in post office red. The post box which sits next to the old telephone box has also received a coat of fresh post office red!

The book exchange and the post box now sit majestically at the centre of the village a tribute to the Parish Council and the Village Volunteers.



A New Grant Scheme for the Penistone Area **Working Together Fund**

Penistone Area Council is keen to work with Parish Councils and Community Groups and Organisations to assist them to undertake slightly projects than the Ward Alliance Fund but which clearly address the priorities of the Area Council whilst furthering its aim to work with people who want to do things which benefit and enhance the area for themselves and others - Social Action.

The grants offered are between £5,000 and £20,000 and although it does not have to be matched it must clearly show volunteer involvement and a willingness to be creative in the way issues are addressed in the area. It could be an environmental improvement project, something which has positive outcomes for young and/or older people or providing a service to the community.

A two stage application process. Expressions of interest are considered by a grants panel which consists of an elected member from Penistone East and West Wards, a member of

the Penistone Area Team and BMBC Stronger Communities Volunteer and Engagement Officer. If the grants panel think the project meets the criteria of the working together fund a full application will be invited and help offered to develop the project from the Penistone Area Team. Once awarded the group/organisation will be expected to deliver a number of outcomes/outputs which will be monitored by the Area Council Manager and reported in due course to Penistone Area Council as are the larger commissions awarded by them and targeted at larger, more complicated issues.

Information for applicants can be obtained from the Penistone Area Team, at Penistone Town Hall, Shrewsbury Road, Penistone S36 3DY
Tel: 01226 773012 or 01226 775382
email: johnopenshaw@barnsley.gov.uk