

CCA Report for CPC meeting of 10th July 2025

We are pleased to report that we have appointed three more trustees to manage the charity. They are Rosie Frater who runs pilates from Unit 4, Derek McGuinness who, with his wife Alex, runs Berwick and Borders Therapies in Unit 6 and Willa Straker-Smith who is a farmer from Wark. Of course, as tenants, Rosie and Derek are keen to make sure the charity continues to thrive and Willa is very interested in supporting and helping a local community charity.

Since the last meeting we have obtained, and used, a 100% grant from the Community Foundation for reconstruction of the damaged retaining wall south-east of the building, which included removing the stump remaining from the large willow tree. It was interesting to see how the skip remarkably filled itself overnight!

An external investigation has been carried out into the leaking Velux window. As I suspected, the problem is a broken hinge. Unfortunately it cannot be changed from outside, so will require a tower scaffold in the hall at a later date.

At the last trustees' meeting in May, concern was expressed about the fire hazard of the pottery kiln to be installed in unit 5. I said that judgement would be reserved until all the facts were known, which is now the case. I can assure both our trustees here and the Parish Council that the risk from the kiln is far lower than that of the electric toaster in your kitchen. Internal and external temperatures are continuously monitored. The exterior is only slightly warm under full power and the kiln cannot be both hot and open at the same time. The fire risk to the premises is therefore not increased by the kiln. The Parish Council will be pleased to know that the Centre, having been a school and subsequently further compartmented, is probably the most fire-resistant building in the community.

On Sunday 29th June a rounders afternoon was held on the green and a team representing the Centre took part. This was a very successful event attended by about 60 or 70 local people. Although it was not specifically intended to raise money, the Centre's expenses have been paid and £300 will go towards the Village Green.

As the last item, and regarding the land at Station Gardens, I have started enquiries but I am sorry, I do not yet have anything to report.