

## **Quarterly Report to Members**

Much going on in the dark winter months including a most amazing and totally unexpected donation to Spetchells Centre.

### **Estelles Rooms**

We have received a most generous donation of £10,000 in memory of Estelle O Leary to be used to improve Spetchells Centre. Trustees are bowled over by this anonymous gift.

It may not be immediately apparent but the big tables in the meeting rooms have become damaged over the last 7 years, are hardly safe, difficult to use and difficult to manoeuvre.

So we have used some of the donation to replace the tables and spruce up the meeting rooms, now to be known as Estelles Rooms. The new tables look the same but are smaller, lighter and easier to configure in different ways. We will be redecorating the rooms and getting some exhibition boards as well.



## **Prudhoe Youth Project**

The Partnership has set up the Project which will be shortly become a charity in its own right with a skilled and experienced set of trustees. Rachel Noble has just taken over from me as Chair and will do a great job.

The Town Council has been really helpful in providing £20,000 to fund a programme of detached youth work and Children North East has been appointed to hit the streets two nights a week at Easter for a full year. This will be announced publicly during April.

PYP aims to work alongside the other youth services in the town and to develop a charitable youth service as takes place already in nearly other comparable town

## **Future of the town centre**

One of the main findings of the town survey last summer was that local people wanted to see improvements on Front Street. We have set up a joint working party with the Town Council that has just had its third meeting.

We are looking at a number of ways we could brighten up Front Street but realise we face a challenge, along with every other high street in the country, to change with the times. We are drawing up long term strategies that envisage less retail, more leisure, more entertainment and public services in the town centre by 2030.

## **Annual General Meeting**

Will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July and we hope to have a discussion about Prudhoe in 2030. Please mark the date and tell friends.

## **Arts and Cultural Arts Events**

The Partnership has taken over part of the work of the Town Events group and hopes to organise a series of events that show off Prudhoe in a good and unexpected ways.

The first event will be a musical communities concert on 29<sup>th</sup> May in the Methodist Hall organised by Ian Warburton. Hard on its heels follows Prudhoe's first ever Art Trail from 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June.



We are working with Paul Stangroom, whose picture is above, to place local artists in shops on Front Street displaying their work for sale. We want to see if there is local interest in this kind of event and whether it draws in visitors and puts Prudhoe on the map. Do come and follow the trail.

## **PCP on social media**

You may have noticed too that Spetchells is popping up on facebook much more thanks to help from Peter Surrudge. As you read this, Peter is building a new website for the Partnership which will go live at [www.prudhoe.org](http://www.prudhoe.org) shortly.

## **Dementia Friendly Prudhoe**

Following on from Purple Tuesday, the Partnership's access group is now looking at how we can make Prudhoe easier to navigate for people with dementia. Alzheimers Society is guiding us in setting this project up.

## **More affordable homes**

Respondents to the survey, also said that more social housing was needed, especially for young families. We are working on a small scheme in West Wylam to provide five two bedroom flats. There is a long way to go and cannot say more at the moment.

## **Volunteering**

A staggering 91 people in the survey said they would like to volunteer so we are holding discussions with Northumberland CVA about the best way to promote opportunities for volunteers in Prudhoe. Early days again, but watch out for more news.

## **Jude's Progress**

Our community facilitator, employed by Northumbria Healthcare Trust, is everywhere, mapping community groups and identifying gaps. Jude is due to report soon. She organised a highly successful Techy Tea Party in Spetchells Centre to help older people develop their computer skills.

That's all there is space for this quarter. Do come to the AGM and encourage your friends to get involved too. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

**George Hepburn, Chair of trustees**

**March 2019**