



Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited (UTASS)



Annual Report 2016

Contents:

Patrons, Honorary Officers and Management Committee Trustees	page 2
Staff	page 3
Chairperson's Report	page 4
Project Manager's Report	page 6
Work with Children and Young People	page 18
Durham Dales Enterprise Community Interest Company (DDECIC)	page 22
Outreach Facilities and Services	page 24
Funders, Assisters and Advisors	page 25
Contact Details, Aims and Mission Statement	page 26
APPENDIX 1 - Training Courses	page 27
APPENDIX 2 - Financial Information & Accounts	page 28

Photograph on the front cover courtesy of Emma Spry

Patrons, Honorary Officers & Management Committee Trustees:

Patrons:

11th Lord Barnard, T.D. until 3.4.16.

12th Lord Barnard DL from 28.5.16.

The Reverend Rachel Benson DL

Professor Dr Patrick Lavery

Sir Paul Nicholson

Lady Nicholson

18th The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne until 27.2.16.

19th The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne from 1.6.16.

The Rt Revd Paul Butler - Bishop of Durham

Voluntary Management Committee Trustees/Board:

Louise Dalton (Honorary Secretary)

*Bob Danby (Honorary Treasurer)

Peter Ellis (Specialist Advisor)

Kay Hutchinson

Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmoore (Honorary Chairperson)

Richard Matthews (Honorary Vice Chairperson)

Roy Oxby

Robyn Peat

*Carl Stephenson

*Ian Tallentire

Sally Ann Teward

Rachel Watson

UTASS Core & Project Staff:

Stephen Beddard	Caretaker/Cleaner at Mart/Aspire Building
Ann Bell	Office Systems, Monitoring & Administration Support Worker
Hayley Bell	Enterprise Development Worker until 29.2.16.
Richard Betton	Local Farmers' Liaison Worker
Theo Clapp	Sessional Youth Worker
Alison Greaves	Administration Support Worker
Lucy Jenkins	Project Officer (Funding)
Gina Richardson	Sessional Youth Worker
Anne Scott	Administration & Support Worker (Finance)
Jennifer Smurthwaite	Domestic Support Worker (and CREE and Sessional Children & Young People's Support Worker)
*Diane Spark	Project Manager (Company Secretary both UTASS and DDECIC)
Emma Spry	Administration Support Worker (Website & Social Media)
Julia Stephenson	Training Co-ordinator & Administration Support Worker
Charlotte Tarn/Fletcher	Administration Support Worker
Tessa Wigham	Agricultural Secretary

*Denotes also DDECIC Director

Other Associated Staff:

Celine Elliot – Area Youth Worker employed by Durham County Council until May 2016.

Zelda Heney - Auxiliary Worker employed by Durham County Council

Andrew Robinson - Auxiliary Worker employed by Durham County Council

Jennifer Smurthwaite - Youth Worker employed by Durham County Council

Carina Smith Jan 16 to July 16, **Jason Brown** July 16 to Sept 16 and **Alison Walker** – from Sept 16.

Advice Workers employed by Barnard Castle Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) funded by UTASS.

Chairperson's Report:

2016 was a busy year with many highs and lows. It was a year of significant loss. In February The 18th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne sadly passed away followed shortly after in April by the 11th Lord Barnard T.D.. Both were Patrons and had served UTASS extremely well for 18 years. Then In November, a founder member and former Vice Chairman of trustees, Alan Scott died suddenly. Alan's involvement dated back to 1992, with him serving the farming community in so many ways. But his role during Foot and Mouth helped establish UTASS as the caring people centred organisation it is today. All will be sorely missed. I am delighted that the 19th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne and the 12th Lord Barnard D.L. agreed to join as Patrons, in May and June respectively.

Workload and achievement of outputs remained high with the busiest time of year being March to mid-May due to the support required with the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) application process.

UTASS continued to work with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in an attempt to improve their on line systems. However poor local IT infrastructure and Broadband speed remains an issue for so many of our members.

As ever - funding for our work came from many different sources and we are most grateful to all our funders, large and small, for their support. The funds raised through the Friends of UTASS played a vital part in helping us deliver appropriate services. The winner of the 2016 annual Friends of UTASS draw was Brian Howson who very kindly gave the prize money back to UTASS. Members continued to make valuable financial donations. These donations remain very important and are very much appreciated.



Monthly Cree Lunch at St Johns Chapel,
Photograph courtesy of Jen Smurthwaite

Social lunch sessions were held monthly throughout the year and were always well attended in Middleton, Barnard Castle and St John's Chapel. Thank you to Middleton-in-Teesdale and Barnard Castle auction marts for the use of their facilities. Money/ Energy Saving Sessions were delivered by Citizens Advice Bureau - with one attendee helped to save over £1,000 per year on fuel costs.

A Highlight of 2016 was the chance, in June, to host a visit from King Letsie III of Lesotho and his Queen, as part of the 30th Anniversary of the Durham Lesotho Diocesan Link. The photograph opposite shows King Letsie laying a 'through stone' in the wall adjoining Middleton Mart and the Pennine Way.



Photograph courtesy of Gordon Jones

Independent Community Consultants (Rose Regeneration) undertook an evaluation of our work between 2013 and 2016. This was a large piece of work and included consultations with stakeholders, working partners as well as beneficiaries. The resultant report and findings will be a great asset to support our future fundraising efforts.

New services delivered this year included a dog chipping session held in September at Middleton Mart in partnership with Castle Vets resulting in over 30 dogs being chipped. Our first 'Open Garden' event was held in May, courtesy of Joan Drewe, which raised over £600, thank you. We also joined the Highlights Rural Touring Theatre Scheme who, in November, put on a performance of the play 'Here I Belong' to a full house. Our minibuses were used in October to help transport people to and from Artist Steve Messam's 'Waterfalls' event's which started at Bowlees. Our minibuses were also used to help people develop their driving skills and increase the numbers of volunteers available to transport community groups operating in our area.



Photograph courtesy of Jen Smurthwaite

Young people were able to benefit from a variety of offsite outings, as well as sessions held at UTASS on Monday and Thursday evenings. Help was again given by our Monday Night Girls Group to put up food hampers for local people nominated by the Cameron Relief in Sickness Trust.

As always I again extend enormous thanks to our amazing team of Patrons, Trustees, Staff and Volunteers – without whom we could not operate. Your generosity is quite overwhelming and I am truly grateful to you all.

Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmoore

Project Manager's Report:

On behalf of our dedicated, caring and hardworking Staff, Trustees, Volunteers and Patrons I am again delighted to report on work we have been involved in for public benefit throughout 2016, which included:

- Practical support with the completion and submission of complex forms and paperwork, including awareness raising.
- Production and dissemination of regular briefings consisting of essential information distilled and de-jargonised from Defra, EU etc. and predominantly pertinent to the running of livestock based farm businesses.
- In cases of severe hardship, acting as third party referrers to organisations which include ARC Addington Trust and RABI.
- Support and training in setting up of sustainable methods of dealing with on-farm paperwork, including the computerisation of records.
- Community Newsletters.
- Various training courses based on locally identified needs.
- Monthly Retired Farmers lunch & social sessions in Barnard Castle, Middleton – in – Teesdale and St John's Chapel.
- Advocacy and liaison work with local Landlords, Defra & other agencies.
- Lamb Bank, Sales & Wants and Labour/Skills List development work.
- Organisation and delivery of social & community events.
- Topical presentations & awareness raising events (including educational visits).
- Seeking feedback on consultations at local, regional & national levels.
- General drop in and telephone advice on a range of issues and signposting to other helper organisations & agencies.
- Provision of venue & outreach facilities for a range of agencies & organisations including Citizens Advice Bureau and Durham County Carers.
- Provision of facilities for Pilates sessions, chiropody, beauty treatments and community meetings.
- Facilities for advertising local businesses/services/community activities and events
- Internet access, photocopying, faxing and laminating facilities.
- Support with the organisation and provision of annual local agricultural shows, monthly producers markets.
- Administration and collection point for the N E First Credit Union.

- Provision of minibuses for community use and training.
- Music & Memories sessions.
- Teesdale Heritage Group and Wear & Tees Farm Watch operated under the umbrella of UTASS.

Out of Office Help: Thanks to our precious Volunteers we were able to continue offering year round, **24/7** out of office support for those with urgent needs.

Basic Payment Scheme work:

2016 proved to be another difficult year for Basic Payment Scheme applications. The RPA was keen to see as many applications as possible made using the new online system, though the option of paper forms was still available. Unfortunately the pre-population of applicant information on the new online system was often either wrong or incomplete with many applicants finding land parcels missing from the online data held or other fields added that did not form part of their business. This necessitated the completion of additional paper forms (continuation sheets) to highlight the inaccuracies. This was particularly true of claims involving common or shared grazing. The paucity of information on claims statements (when or if they were issued by the RPA) and the number of applicants who had only received a “bridging payment” (part payment) made it difficult to confirm that the information used for the 2015 application was accurate and therefore could be used again in 2016. Overall the 2016 application period was less traumatic than 2015 due to strategic planning, the cooperation and understanding of farmers and that the registration process did not need to be repeated. Any paper forms completed were delivered to the RPA in Carlisle and a receipt obtained. Unfortunately some businesses are still chasing underpayment from 2015, particularly those with common land and those who transferred entitlements into their business.

Graziers Groups: We have continued to support and develop **6** Graziers Groups. The 6 Graziers Groups are due to receive **£3,780,750.00** amongst them between 2011 - 2021.

UTASS Membership: At the end of 2016 our member household mailing list stood at **439** addresses (**390** farms and **49** other households/agencies/organisations) totalling **1317** members. On average we received **2** new membership applications per month.

Contact Monitoring Data: **27,275** contacts (**1,804** more than in 2015) resulting in **28,912** presenting issues.

The most popular support area was administration support, including assistance with form filling, faxing, emails, photocopying etc. (**19,934** instances – **1,767** more than in 2015).

Service users again told us the main stressor causing them distress was: Keeping up to date with legislation & complex paperwork/IT requirements

Activities, Achievements and Outputs Included:

Providing varying degrees
of direct
assistance to:



Economic Benefits Gained:

Based on assumption of errors prevented and associated penalties avoided.

Quantifiable Economic Benefits Gained Included:

- Direct assistance with BPS forms given to **229** farm businesses and the average basic payment of £17,500 equates to approximately **£4,007,500.00**.
- Direct assistance with BPS forms given to **229** farm businesses. Assume an average Basic Payment of £17,500. Assume 20% 'minor' mistakes with 10% penalties equates to **£80,150.00** For those farmer members who have agri-environmental agreements - cross compliance penalties would also apply.
- Support on cross compliance if based on 5% of our membership being inspected and 5% receiving penalties equates to **£17,062.00**.
- Businesses supported in the transfer of land and entitlements **£34,000.00**.
- Support given to numerous members with Environmental Stewardship Schemes (ELS, UELS & HLS) including applications equates to a minimum **£4,150,000.00** over the 10 year duration (2010 – 2020) of HLS with UELS.
- Assistance to members with electronic applications for cattle passports, if assuming 5% of our membership would miss a deadline without our intervention, which would require them to pay for the dam and the calf to be DNA tested – this would amount to a minimum of **£3,315.00**.
- Based on 50% of UTASS farming members being Farm Assured, each farm selling 200 new lambs, 50 old season lambs and 20 beef animals equates to a minimum of **£441,967.00**.
- In addition to the financial benefits associated with assisting farmers with Basic Payment Applications, farm records, checking for and chasing up underpayment of BPS, farm assurance etc. the sum of **£26,000.00** was obtained for local businesses from RDPE Flood Recovery Fund.

An independent mid-term evaluation of the impact of Big Lottery Reaching Communities grant funding to UTASS was undertaken and a report produced in May 2016. Using the social return on investment model (SROI) it showed the following returns for every **£1** invested:

- Basic Payment Scheme work **£7.47**.
- Young people's drop in **£3.26**.
- Out of hours service **£2.57**.

Briefings:

A key part of our service is our briefings to members, which aim to give as simply and concisely as possible the essential information distilled from the reams of publications and books emanating from DEFRA. Failure to comply can be costly as support payments can then be subject to penalties. Our goal is to help our members to get all the support payments that they are entitled to. 5 briefings were produced covering a wide range of topics including Brexit, New Animal Movement Regime, Pig Keeping Requirements, Annual Sheep and Goat Inventory and Basic Payment Scheme.

Those who worked in partnership with us included:

- Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
- Campaign for Farmed Environment
- Castle Vets
- Commons Foundation
- Country Landowners Association
- Durham Constabulary
- Durham County Council - Children and Young People's Services and Digital Durham
- Eblex
- Environment Agency
- Farming Community Network
- Harrison & Hetherington
- Heart of Teesdale
- John Warren ABP
- Langdon Beck, High Force and Eggleston Show Committees
- Middleton - in - Teesdale and Barnard Castle Farmers Auction Marts
- Middleton - in - Teesdale and Newbiggin Parish Council
- National Farmers Union (NFU)
- Natural England
- North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership
- Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership
- Northumberland and Durham County Councils
- Old Forge Surgery
- Raby and Strathmore Estates
- Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute (RABI) and Addington

- Rural Payments Agency (RPA)
- South West Durham Enterprise Agency
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)
- Teesdale and Weardale Action Partnerships
- Teesdale Mercury
- The Prince's Countryside Fund (PCF)
- Upland Alliance
- Various Land Agents and Solicitors
- Yorkshire Agricultural Society

Training undertaken by UTASS Staff included:

<u>Training</u>	<u>Staff Members</u>
Dementia Awareness	Richard Betton, Emma Spry & Anne Scott
Farming Advice Service Webinars Protecting BPS Payments and Cross Compliance	Tessa Wigham
RPA Webinars on BPS X 2	Ann Bell, Richard Betton & Tessa Wigham
Digital Office Photocopier Training	Ann Bell, Tess Wigham, Charlotte Fletcher, Jen Smurthwaite, Alison Greaves & Julia Stephenson
IAgSA regional branch meetings	Tessa Wigham

Training Provided:

A wide and varied range of training took place in 2016, responding to requests from UTASS and community members, as well as other tried and tested favourites such as British Wool Shearing Training – please see details on Appendix 1, page 27

Training opportunities were advertised in Briefings, Newsletters, local press and on the Training Opportunities page of our website. Julia Stephenson (Training Co-ordinator) also attended the Careers afternoon at Teesdale School with a Land Based training handout and information point.

A new two year programme “Weardale Rural Skills Training” funded by Weardale Action Partnership and delivered by UTASS started in February providing part funding for a range of farming skills.

We were successful in finding a new funder, The Wellesley Trust Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear, for young people’s driver training to follow on from the three years of funding we received from The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust. We are so grateful to them as this has paved the way to help many young people overcome the barriers of social isolation and gain access to employment and training.



Photograph courtesy of Julia Stephenson

The closing date for applications to the Wellesley Trust Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland was at the end of August and training is ongoing for those who were successful - the demand exceeded supply in some sectors. Recent feedback includes: “The trainer was fantastic and made the day.” “Would highly recommend to anyone interested.” “Thank you for the opportunity and obtaining the funding.”

An Open Evening was held in early September at Middleton Mart and included a variety of training, safety awareness and other sessions for those who attend the UTASS Drop In and for community members. It was also an opportunity to welcome Teesdale YMCA members along and acknowledge the achievement of some of the D1 minibus Test trainees.

Community Newsletters:

4 Newsletters were produced and distributed to members and other interested agencies and organisations. The Newsletters contained information on social, community, leisure & educational/training opportunities as well as details of items for sale or required by members. The website is now maintained to offer electronic versions of the newsletter. Richard Betton also wrote a monthly article for the Teesdale Mercury Farming Supplement.

Consultation and Input at Local, National & International Levels Included:

- Upper Teesdale Land Management Group (UTLMG) meetings
- Ongoing liaison with Helen Goodman MP and Paul Brannen MEP
- Regular attendance at NE ‘Land Agents’ briefing
- NFU Council, Regional Board, Upland Group and conference.

- Two meetings with Mark Grimshaw RPA CEO
- Meeting with RPA Commons Team
- Liaison with RPA Stress Team
- Attendance at FCN Branch meetings, national management team and conference
- Feedback to RPA on customer registration and BPS application process
- High Nature Value Farming (HNVF) development and charring of Farmers Panel and results based pilot
- AONB partnership and North Pennine Chain Local Nature Partnership
- Member of RPA and Natural England Independent Appeals Panels (Public appointment)
- Input into Bishop James (Ripon) Farming Initiative
- Upland Alliance workshop on future hill policy
- Penrith Spur TB meeting
- North Cumbria NFU including meeting with Chief Livestock Policy Adviser
- Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP)

Other Agencies & Organisations Supported Included:

Upper Teesdale Churches

Swaledale Sheep Breeders Association (SSBA)

Eggleston Parish Council

Eggleston Village Committee

Middleton-in-Teesdale Fitness Suite

Dales Pony Society

Wear and Tees Farmwatch

Teesdale Heritage Group

The Friends of Middleton-in-Teesdale School

DCC – Waterfalls exhibition/event

Heart of Teesdale (Hill Farming in the 21st Century event)

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme:

In November we held our first event as a member of the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme. The Pentabus Theatre Company presented a play about rural isolation, "Here I Belong". It was a sensitive, charming and honest portrayal about changing village life and the right to grow old in your own home. It took the audience of over 40 people through decades of village history seen through the eyes of one elderly village resident – Elsie. We hope to offer more productions in the future.



Photograph courtesy of Anne Scott

Dog Chipping Session:

In September we worked with Castle Vets to deliver a dog chipping session at Middleton – in – Teesdale Farmers Auction Mart. Veterinary Surgeon Richard Matthews chipped over 30 dogs whilst UTASS Administration Support Worker Charlotte Fletcher assisted with the paperwork.

Music & Memories:

Monthly sessions ran throughout the year on Tuesdays between 2pm and 3pm. Participants enjoyed singing along to a range of memorable old songs, accompanied by our friends Mike and Graham with their ukuleles. In addition cakes made by our Monday Night Girls Group were served up with a refreshing cuppa.



Photograph courtesy of Julia Stephenson

Agricultural Shows:

We provided administration assistance to Middleton - in - Teesdale Spring Show (High Force Show), Langdon Beck and Eggleston Show Committees. Richard Betton was the Licence Holder and Bio-Security Officer for both the High Force and Langdon Beck Shows.

ICT Support:

The community computer in UTASS was well used again this year - mainly due to job search activities and tourists checking emails. Our PowerPoint projector and screen were also loaned out on numerous occasions for wider community benefit.

Computerised Farm Records and Agricultural Secretarial Work:

UTASS continued to maintain the farm records for a number of businesses in the Durham Dales area in the form of livestock and veterinary records, provision of year end stock lists for farm accounts etc. The software system used enables a comparison of the members' cattle records to be checked automatically for errors when compared to the information held by BCMS, something carried out on a regular basis to avoid the possibility of Basic Payment and Environmental scheme penalties being incurred. Sheep identification and tagging records are still a major concern for farm businesses and the necessity to record and read individual numbers within the flock.

UTASS has also been able to assist members with livestock movements, predominantly cattle and sheep, resolve movement history errors, late applications, passport mistakes and inaccuracies such as breed, sex of calf thus avoiding penalties at inspection.

Some members of UTASS who were struggling due to family ill health issues were supported. This included liaising with local livestock auctioneers to value and push forward the sale of stock to facilitate an 'exit strategy'. Records and movements were undertaken, banking of cheques and support in general.

Lamb Bank, Sales & Wants & Labour/Skills Lists:

Lamb Bank, Skills & Services and Sales & Wants schemes continued to be well used.

Presentations & Awareness Raising Events/Activities Included:

- Presentation to Safer Communities Suicide Prevention Conference in Durham
- Presentation at the Artists, Philosophers and Farmer's Symposium
- Farming Advice Service (New CPH rules, cross compliance requirements for livestock farms and common areas of non-compliance and an introduction to the BVD Free England Campaign).

UTASS Minibuses:

The big excitement towards the end of 2016 was the arrival of a new 10 seater minibus, funded from the Department of Transport's Government Minibus Fund. There are lots of excursions planned for 2017.

As this vehicle's Maximum Authorised Mass is less than 3,500kg excluding the ramp access, it can be driven by volunteers who have a normal car licence and perfectly complements our 15 seater minibus, which has a tail lift. Information for voluntary organisations wanting to use our minibuses, on a "not for hire or reward" basis, can be found on the Minibus Training page of our website.



Photographs courtesy of Julia Stephenson

The Teesdale Action Partnership funded Minibus Project delivered by UTASS has resulted in seven newly qualified minibus drivers, who have passed their D1 Theory, followed by their practical Driving Test, which will be of HUGE benefit to voluntary organisations in and around Teesdale. We had an additional two D1 test trainees who will be taking their D1 Test in January 2017.

The five voluntary organisations in Teesdale who have benefited are as follows:

- Staindrop Scouts (x 2 trainees)
- Teesdale YMCA
- UTASS
- Barnard Castle Scouts (x 2 trainees)
- St Mary's Church, Cockfield, leading various clubs



Photograph courtesy of Gordon Jones

Congratulations too, to the 16 volunteer drivers who already had D1 on their licence and now have MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) certificates which last for 4 years. They too now have the knowledge and confidence to drive minibuses for their diverse voluntary organisations.

Comments and thanks received from users of UTASS in 2016 included:

*"Tessa & Richard -
Couldn't do without
you."*

*"Help & advice. Nothing
is too much trouble for
all the staff at UTASS."*

*"UTASS is one of the
best things in
Teesdale, so many
people depend on
them."*

*"I receive
immediate support
& advice."*

*"I enjoy my meal & the
company at St Johns
Chapel each month."*

*"The staff at UTASS are
friendly, helpful and go the
extra mile when needed
and know what questions
to ask."*

*"Supporting young
people in
training &
development."*

*"Central to the dale, always
a phone call away. Helps in rural
work & plenty of socialising for
adults & kids."*

*"Any problems
with farming forms,
UTASS is at the end of a
telephone call."*

*"Honesty, confidentiality,
friendly, always there
and very helpful."*

*"Friendly service,
approachable staff.
A valuable focus in
the village."*

*"It is great to have
knowledgeable people to
organise activities for local
youths & community."*

Work with Children & Young People:

Young Peoples' Facilities:

Sessions provided much needed social facilities on weekday evenings, some weekends and during school holidays. Many of those living on remote farms were transported to and from activities in the **UTASS minibus**.

The Young People continued to play their part in the management, development and financing of their project and we achieved **Investing in Children** status for the **11th** year running.

A total of **135** Young People (**62 female and 73 male**) accessed Drop In and Youth Club at UTASS.

Sessions were delivered weekly throughout the year on Monday and Thursday evenings. Thursday evenings were the most popular with an average attendance of **55** Young People aged 8 – 19 years. An average of **18** Young People aged 8-14 years attended the Monday Night Girls Group. Wednesday evening sessions were mainly offsite to local parks or places of interest.

Activities, facilities and equipment provided at Young Peoples' sessions included:

- TV nights
- Arcade dance mats and car racing machines
- Treadmill, cross trainers, rowing machine, exercise bike
- Basketball, netball, soft ball football, scooter boards and boxing bag
- Arts & Crafts
- Board games
- Healthy eating nights
- Games nights including darts, table tennis, carpet bowls & pool competitions
- CV preparation sessions and job application support
- Discussion nights (racism, sexism, disability, sexuality, homophobia, domestic violence, contraception, pregnancy, attitudes, values and decision making, illness, death & bereavement, bullying, relationships, health & safety, citizenship/virtues, drugs, alcohol, eating disorders, smoking, self-harm, depression & mental health, lifestyle issues, exercise & healthy eating, housing issues, careers, money, law & rights, cyber bullying, parenting, crime, politics, school issues, transport, religion, compromise & negotiation skills and volunteering)
- C-Card condom distribution scheme and Chlamydia screening
- X Box, wii and internet café

School holiday and offsite activities included:



Photograph courtesy of Jen Smurthwaite

- Mixed crafts
- Visits to Lightwater Valley, Diggerland and Top Gear Karting
- Roller Skating, Trampolining, Bowling, Ice Skating and Laser Tag
- Sailing at Grassholme Reservoir

Specialist Workers and Advisors from agencies and organisations provided information and advice for our Young People included:



*1 Young People with Ron Hogg, Police & Crime Commissioner;
Photograph courtesy of Andrew Robinson*

- Adam Hearn (River Safety)
- Chris Affleck – Investing in Children
- Ron Hogg (Police & Crime Commissioner – consultation)
- Durham County Council (Youth Services Review)

Various Young People participated in events & activities which included:

- Putting together food hampers for the Cameron Relief in Sickness Charity
- Making outfits for a “trashion” show in Barnard Castle
- The visit of King Letsie III of Lesotho
- Farm Safety Awareness event at Middleton Farmer’s Mart
- Interviews for articles with the Teesdale Mercury and BBC Radio Tees
- Fossil making with the AONB
- Selling items at the local Christmas Fair



Photograph courtesy of Jen Smurthwaite

Youth Work Staff & Volunteers training included:

Training	Staff/Volunteer Member/s
ADHD & Positive Behaviour	Jen Smurthwaite and Gordon Jones
Level 2 Safeguarding Children	Gina Richardson, Theo Clapp and Andy Robinson

Educational Visits:

During 2016, funding from The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership allowed 195 children from local primary schools to come along to Middleton Mart, with transport by bus also being funded.

Jennie Stafford, an environmental adviser, lead the sessions along with Julia Stephenson, UTASS Training Co-ordinator. Jennie & Julia tweaked their Farming Year presentation to engage different age groups over the six visits and provide an enjoyable learning experience around the curriculum subjects like Animals, Habitats & Sustainability.



Children from Woodland Primary School “feel the difference” by looking at raw fleeces from a farm’s wool sack. Then they examine partly “scoured” wool, “combed” wool and finally, the end product of wool, ready to knit.

Comment from teacher on visits:

“The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and learnt lots! It’s all relevant and clearly delivered in a super way, so thank you very much.”

Photo courtesy of the Teesdale Mercury

For all educational visits, several HoT educational banners depicting Teesdale (the Farming Year; Livestock; Boundaries & Hedgerows; Harvest), were taken into the schools beforehand to set the scene. Middleton Mart provided an excellent learning opportunity, not only to imagine farmers selling livestock at the Mart to make money and to learn about what livestock & poultry produce, but, from the Mart car park, affords the opportunity to look at neighbouring drystone walls and fields containing sheep and cattle.



The children met Drop In member Matthew with his rare breeds of poultry and asked lots of questions -

What do they eat & drink?

How do you get them ready for a show?

What is it like living on a farm?

Photo courtesy of the Teesdale Mercury

A selection of some of the comments made about the Drop In and Youth Club in 2016:

"We get to meet new people from the area."

"Meet with friends and play games."

"Play Games."

"All the people who work at UTASS are great, and spend time listening to us."

"A relaxed and a friendly environment."

"I like to come down on the minibus because my mam and dad are always busy on the farm."

"As a volunteer I like to support the young people."

"UTASS is a great place to go."

"I go to a different school, so I only see my friends from the village when I come to UTASS."

"Go on Trips."

Durham Dales Enterprise Community Interest Company (DDECIC):

A VAT registered “Special Purpose Vehicle” established in March 2013 by UTASS to facilitate the North East Rural Growth Network (NERGN) grant funding/investment offered for our locality. Registered office is 9-11 Chapel Row, DL12 0SN.

Throughout 2016 four Directors, Bob Danby, Ian Tallentire, Carl Stephenson and Diane Spark, have overseen the Community Interest Company with significant help from staff and volunteers at UTASS. Hayley Bell (part time Enterprise Development Worker) left her post in February.

DDECIC was in year 3 of a 5 year Agreement with Middleton – in – Teesdale Farmers Auction Mart for the management of the 4 business units in the Aspire Building on the Mart site.

DDECIC activities in 2016 included:

- Management of the 5 business units Yan, Tyan Tethera & Methera at the Auction Mart and Pip at UTASS.
- Organisation of fundraising events including the Christmas Fair at Middleton Mart and a baby & children’s pre-loved goods sale at UTASS.

Tenants in Business Units:

- Yan – Harrison & Hetherington
- Tyan – Olwen Williams – Artist (from March 2016)
- Tethera – Farm Pet & Equine
- Methera – Sweet Tooth (from May 2016) - Young Rural Entrepreneur
- Pip – Artist Steve Messam

The Young Rural Entrepreneur Programme (YREP) was a joint initiative between DDECIC, UTASS, Harrison & Hetherington and South Durham Enterprise Agency. The project involved the provision of free business unit space, mentoring and appropriate training for a 12 month period for a local young entrepreneur. Ali Collinson with her business Sweet Tooth was the first Young Rural Entrepreneur.



Photograph courtesy of Gordon Jones

King Letsie III of Lesotho met and chatted with Tenants from all 5 business units when he and clergy from the Durham Diocese visited the Mart in June.

Plans/priorities for 2017:

- To continue supporting the existing tenants in the business units.
- To further explore the acquisition of premises and facilities to support small business development.
- Running a 2nd YREP.
- Christmas Fair at Auction Mart in November.



The Christmas Fair held in 2016; Photographs courtesy of Emma Spry

Outreach Facilities and Services:

Citizens Advice Bureau:

The service operated on a fortnightly basis. Sessions have changed due to a number of staffing changes over the last year and at the end of 2016 were operating bi weekly on Mondays from 10am-1pm. Appointments were not needed and anyone could just drop in for advice and assistance on a wide range of issues during these times. Specific Energy Saving Surgeries were also held and well attended – with one person helped to save over £1,000 per year.

Whilst sessions reduced to bi-weekly the number of people accessing the service increased and in 2016 and there were 38 new clients. In addition there were a number of users returning again for help with a range of issues.

UTASS & CAB continued to promote the service and there is still capacity for more people to use the service in 2017. The main enquiry areas dealt with over the last year included employment, fuel issues, consumer problems, housing, pensions, relationships and benefit queries. Regular feedback was that people appreciated being able to access the service locally without having to make the journey to the main CAB office in Barnard Castle. Those accessing advice said they had heard about the service from other service users and via the advertisement from the board outside the UTASS.

CAB have recently started a home visiting service for those who may be housebound and find it difficult to get into sessions. People requiring a home visit should contact Barbara Stott on 07800 773917.

Teesdale Physiotherapy: Pilates sessions on Wednesdays (am).

Tranquil Treatments : Beauty Therapies on Fridays.

Chiropodist Services: On a 6 weekly basis.

Durham County Carers: Fortnightly - drop in sessions and carers coffee mornings.

South Durham Enterprise Agency: Rural Enterprise Development Officer – by appointment.

NE First Credit Union: Membership and collection point (weekly).

Alzheimer's Society: Weekly on Fridays.

UTASS premises/facilities were also used for meetings/events by various groups including:

- Teesdale Heritage Group
- Bowes Museum
- Middleton-in-Teesdale Primary and Nursery School
- Durham Community Action
- High Nature Value Farmer's Panel
- Upper Teesdale Churches Together
- Farmwatch
- Middleton Christmas Lights Group
- The Cameron Relief in Sickness Fund
- Allflex
- Grassland Beef Group
- Citizens Advice Bureau, Energy Saving Surgeries
- Vintage Essence, Wreath Making session

Funders, Assisters & Advisors:

Please see APPENDIX 2, page 28. It should be noted that the freely given donations we received from Patrons, Trustees, Staff, Members and Volunteers formed an invaluable and essential part of our funding package. Many thanks to everyone who supported our work. **Your contributions were/are truly appreciated.** Barclays Bank kindly donated a projector for community use.

Volunteer Contributions:

A fantastic amount of gift in kind hours equating to **£126,536.00** (an **increase** of over **12%** on last year) was **given by our many valued Volunteers**. This tremendous goodwill once again significantly eased the workload.

UTASS Bankers:

Barclays, Darlington and the Dales, 31 High Row, Darlington.

Virgin Money, Jubilee House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4PL.

HSBC, 19 Market Place, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8NE until October then via Middleton – in – Teesdale Post Office.

UTASS Accountant:

Jane Ascroft Accountancy Ltd. DL11 7HH.

UTASS Advisors: **Durham Community Action.** DL15 0BF

**UPPER TEESDALE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES LTD
(UTASS) REGISTERED OFFICE:**

9-11 Chapel Row
Middleton - in - Teesdale
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 0SN

Registered Charity number: 1120120

Company Limited by Guarantee number: 06054331

Telephone: 01833 641010

Fax: 01833 640872

Email: info@utass.org

Website: www.utass.org

Facebook: Utass Upper Teesdale

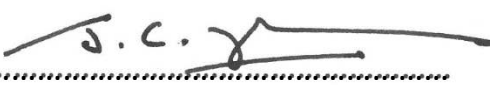
Twitter: @UtassUpperTees

UTASS Objects/Mission Statement:

“To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the community of the rural area of Upper Teesdale and the neighbourhood thereof through the provision of facilities in the interest of the social welfare for the recreation and other leisure time occupation with the objects of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants”.

UTASS Aim:

“Working with our community to help prevent problems from getting to the desperate stage”

Signed by 

Date 6/3/17

Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmoore

UTASS Chairperson

APPENDIX 1

DATE	TRAINING SESSION OFFERED	ATTENDEES PER DAY
18.1.16 – 8.2.16	Getting Online Training at UTASS (afternoons)	4 x 0.5 x 4wks
16.2.16	Visit to British Wool Marketing Board & Wool Scouring Plant	10
20.2.16	Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving	2
29.2.16-21.3.16	Getting Online Training at UTASS (evenings)	4 x 0.5 x 4 wks
4.3.16	All Flex demonstration at UTASS	7
7.3.16	NPTC Spray Theory Training & Assessment at UTASS	17
9.3.16	Safe Use of Pesticides – Handheld Equip Train (assess later)	7
10.3.16	Safe Use of Pesticides – Handheld Equip Train (assess later)	6
11.3.16	Safe Use of Pesticides – Mounted Equipment (assess later)	7
15.3.16	Safe Use of Pesticides - Mounted Equipment (assess later)	5
14.3.16	Educational visits by Green Lane School to Middleton Mart	80
18.3.16	Educational visits by Green Lane School to Middleton Mart	60
19.5.16	Educational Visit by Middleton Reception to Mart	24 X 0.5
13-15.6.16	Semex DIY Artificial Insemination for Cattle	2 x 3 days
20-21.6.16	Minibus Awareness Training (MiDAS)	1x2days; 2 x 1 day
22-23.6.16	British Wool Training Shearing Course	7 x 2 days
29-30.6.16	Lantra Chainsaw Maintenance & Crosscutting	4 x 2 days
23.7.16	Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving	2
11.8.16	Safe Use of Pesticides – Theory Training & Assessment	13
12.8.16	Safe Use of Pesticides – Handheld Equip Train (assess later)	9
15.8.16	Safe Use of Pesticides – Mounted Equipment (assess later)	7
16.8.16	Safe Use of Pesticides - Mounted Equipment (assess later)	3
16+22.8.16	Quad Bike Training	4 x 1 day
8.9.16	Open Evening at Middleton Mart	
15-16.9.16	NPTC Rough Terrain Forklift Training & Assessment	3 x 2 days
20.9.16	Educational Visit by Woodland Primary School to Mart	31 x 0.5
23.11.16	Emergency First Aid	2
28+29.11.16	Lantra Chainsaw Maintenance & Crosscutting	4 x 2 days
10.12.16	Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving	2
12+13.12.16	MiDAS Minibus Awareness Training	1
12.12.16	FAS Event (Cross Compliance, CPH changes + BVD in Cattle)	76
Various to 31.12.16	D1 Minibus Theory Tests	5 x 0.5
Various to 31.12.16	Trailer Test Trainees (7)	7 x 1.5
Various to 31.12.16	Pre Test Tractor (2)	2 x 0.25
Various to 31.12.16	Car driving lessons (3)	3 x 2

** NPTC Spraying Assessments also timetabled for all trainees after practical training*

APPENDIX 2

Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

Year Ended 31 December 2016

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2016	Total Funds 2015 (restated)
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	51,374	185,265	236,639	167,757
Income from charitable activities	5	22,184	63,623	85,807	100,896
Investment income	6	1,811	–	1,811	1,833
Other income	7	31,833	–	31,833	–
Total Income		<u>107,202</u>	<u>248,888</u>	<u>356,090</u>	<u>270,486</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8	(126,274)	(158,539)	(284,813)	(280,579)
Total Expenditure		<u>(126,274)</u>	<u>(158,539)</u>	<u>(284,813)</u>	<u>(280,579)</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)					
Before Transfers	9	(19,072)	90,349	71,277	(10,093)
Transfers between funds	10	79,171	(79,171)	–	–
Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Year		60,099	11,178	71,277	(10,093)
Other Recognised Gains and Losses					
Gains on revaluation of investment assets		2,395	–	2,395	446
Net Movement in Funds		62,494	11,178	73,672	(9,647)
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		112,580	49,012	161,592	171,239
Total Funds Carried Forward		<u>175,074</u>	<u>60,190</u>	<u>235,264</u>	<u>161,592</u>

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

THE FULL ACCOUNTS (25 PAGES) ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited

Balance Sheet

31 December 2016

		2016	2015 (restated)
	Note	£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	80,114	49,664
Investments	13	19,809	2,143
		<u>99,923</u>	<u>51,807</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	14	16,621	6,199
Cash at bank and in hand		139,171	125,141
		<u>155,792</u>	<u>131,340</u>
Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year	15	<u>(20,451)</u>	<u>(21,555)</u>
Net Current Assets		135,341	109,785
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>235,264</u>	<u>161,592</u>
Net Assets		<u>235,264</u>	<u>161,592</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	17	60,190	49,012
Unrestricted funds	18	175,074	112,580
Total Charity Funds		<u>235,264</u>	<u>161,592</u>

For the year ended 31 December 2016 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee and authorised for issue on the 6th March 2017 and are signed on their behalf by:



Dr J C Nainby-Luxmoore

Company Registration Number: 06054331