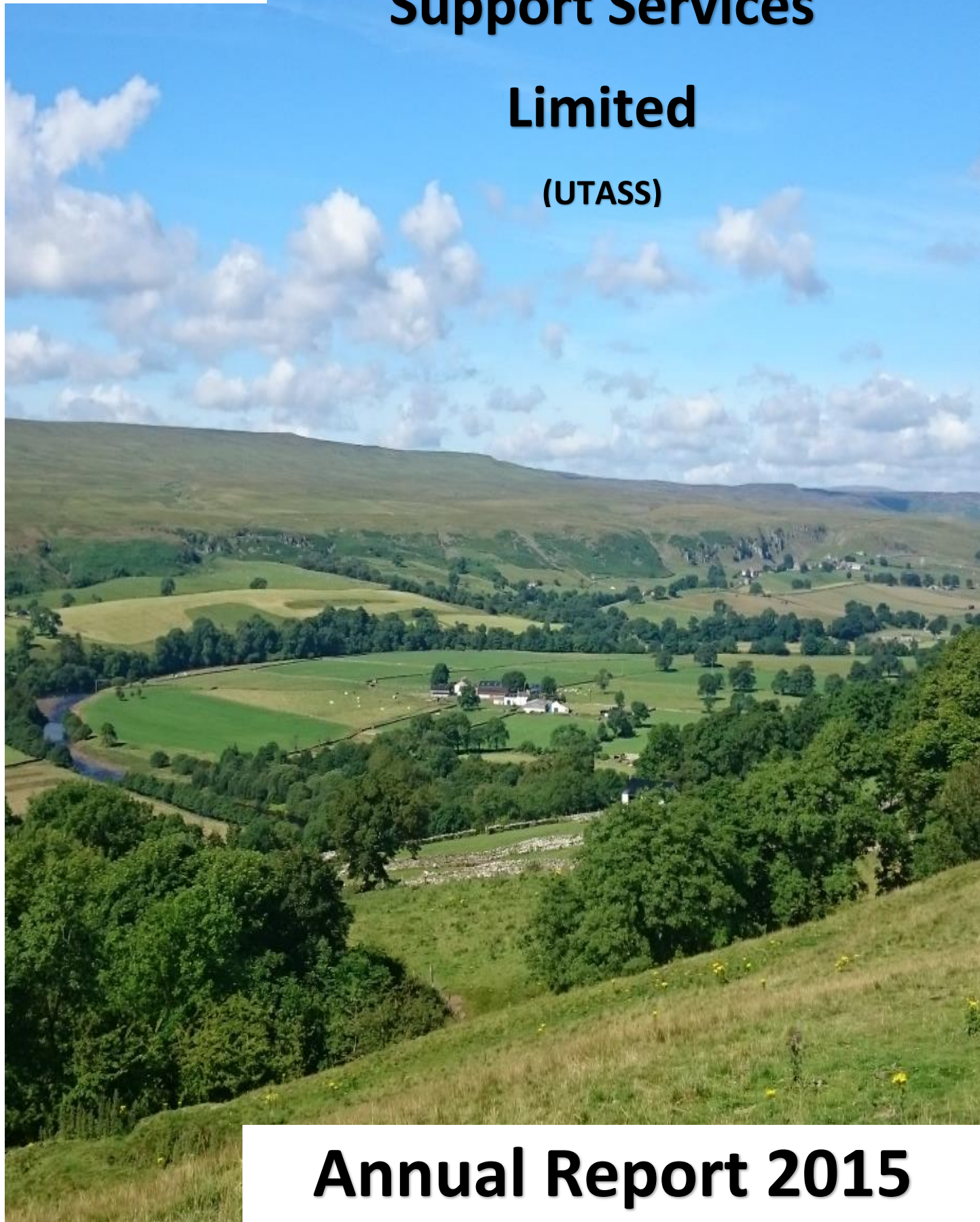




Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited

(UTASS)



Annual Report 2015

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Patrons, Honorary Officers & Management Committee Trustees:

Patrons:

The Lord Barnard, T.D.

The Reverend Rachel Benson

Dr Patrick Lavery

Sir Paul Nicholson

Lady Nicholson

The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne

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 from 21st April 2015)

Roy Oxby

Robyn Peat

*Carl Stephenson

*Ian Tallentire (Honorary Vice Chairperson until 21st April 2015)

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	Middleton Hub Development Worker until 31.3.15. then Enterprise Development Worker from 1.4.15.
Richard Betton	Local Farmers' Liaison Worker
Theo Clapp	Sessional Youth Worker
Alison Greaves	Administration Support Worker from 8.9.15.
Lucy Jenkins	Project Officer (Funding)
Gordon A. Jones	Administration & Support Worker (Children & Young People) until 31.5.15.
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 (Social Media)
Julia Stephenson	Training Co-ordinator & Administration Support Worker
Charlotte Tarn	Administration Support Worker from 1.10.15.
Tessa Wigham	Agricultural Secretary

*Denotes also DDECIC Director

Other Associated Staff:

Celine Elliot – Area Youth Worker employed by Durham County Council (Youth Service)
Zelda Heney - Auxiliary Worker employed by Durham County Council (Youth Service)
Andrew Robinson - Auxiliary Worker employed by Durham County Council (Youth Service)
Jennifer Smurthwaite - Youth Worker employed by Durham County Council (Youth Service)
Tracey Wills until June then **Theresa McKnight** from June - Advice Workers employed by Barnard Castle Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) funded by UTASS.

Chairperson's Report:

2015 was an incredibly busy year on account of having to respond to CAP reform and change of Government, with their ensuing changes! We handled an additional 2,220 contacts compared to 2014. The majority of these occurred during the first part of the year and related directly to the significant increased workload associated with the new Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) application process. As predicted in 2014 the governments "digital by default" agenda, together with IT infrastructure problems in The Durham Dales and with issues in the Rural Payments Agency's (RPA) computerised application system itself, caused huge additional workload and stress for our Farmers and UTASS alike.

Heading into 2016 UTASS continues to work with the RPA in an attempt to improve their systems and with Durham County Council etc. to improve the local IT infrastructure and Broadband speed for the remoter communities, thereby reducing stress for all concerned.

I am again delighted to report that we were fortunate enough to secure funding from over 30 different grant giving bodies to support the majority of our core and project work throughout the year. The gloomy economic climate continues to reduce the number of potential funders, as well as the levels of funding they have to distribute (particularly for core costs). In September at the Trustee and Staff review day it was decided we should prioritise efforts on securing the funds required to cover our ongoing core costs.

The Friends of UTASS brought in the fantastic sum of **£6,275** which was **£920 more** than in 2014. The 2015 winner of the annual Friends of UTASS draw was Mr George Turnbull. He very kindly gave the prize money back to UTASS. Members continue to make donations and these remain very important and very much appreciated.

We were delighted to learn our application for a new wheelchair accessible 4x4 minibus, from the Governments Community Transport Fund, was successful. We anticipate delivery of the vehicle later in 2016. It will operate alongside our current, well used, UTASS minibus which was kindly funded by the ASDA Foundation back in 2010.

The Durham Dales Enterprise Community Interest Company (DDECIC) remains a long term potential source of Core Funding for UTASS. It continues to work with Middleton – in – Teesdale Farmers Auction Mart, on the Rural Growth Network funded projects. On the UTASS site, Business unit number 5 – Pip remains tenanted while the improved UTASS facilities have made it possible for the provision of an increased variety of additional services as well as a greatly improved working/meeting environment for all.

In the first half of the year we worked with Upper Teesdale Community Association (UTCA) and Durham County Council exploring the need for and the feasibility of a brand new community facility from which to provide services etc. We enlisted the support of Durham Community Action and the Village SOS project to assist the process. The UTASS Trustees gave extensive consideration to their reports and suggestions. Subsequently it was decided

that, at the current time, UTASS was not in a position to continue using core resources to explore this venture.

In November after prolonged investigation, discussions and many meetings, we submitted a tender to purchase the disused Durham County Council (DCC) owned “Field Studies Centre” on Bridge Street. It was hoped that this site could be developed for wider community use. By the end of 2015 DCC had not informed us of the outcome of the tendering process.

Meanwhile our facilities continued to be very well used with **144** “children and young people” registered with us and attending the “Evening Drop In sessions” on occasions during the year. Some of our young people embarked upon Duke of Edinburgh Awards while others raised funds for equipment for other local young people to use. All were able to benefit from a variety of offsite outings, as well as through attending our regular sessions, **3** nights per week.

A moving highlight in the year was the World War One Exhibition. This demonstrated partnership working at its best. We were privileged to create this exhibit in partnership with Middleton-in-Teesdale and Newbiggin Parish Council and the Teesdale Heritage Group. The exhibition proved so popular and demand so high that it was exhibited for twice as long as planned.

In October we started to offer fortnightly, hour long Music & Memories sessions. Attendance has been steady and we can accommodate more people in the future.

We are enormously grateful to HRH The Prince of Wales and his Prince’s Countryside Fund Team as they continued to involve us in national awareness raising events. At each event we attended The Prince of Wales always asked about how things are for our Farmers and for his best wishes to be relayed to all our members.

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 2015, 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 RABl.
- 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 and car boot sales.
- Administration and collection point for the N E First Credit Union.

- Provision of minibus 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. At the back end of the year requests for help were higher than they have ever been before.

Single Farm Payment/Basic Payment Scheme work: A new CAP regime started in 2015 resulting in the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) being replaced with the new “digital by default” Basic Payment Scheme. Most of our members were unable to register online for the new Government Gateway, a prerequisite for making a claim. UTASS staff and volunteers helped members register by telephone (a lengthy process not helped by the slow speed of RPA IT). In late March the RPA abandoned “digital by default”, sent out paper forms and extended the deadline for submission of claims to the 15th June. Failures and changes in the application process made this extremely difficult for all concerned. Regular strategic planning including an outreach centre in Weardale, the assistance of our volunteers and the cooperation and understanding of farmers made it possible, *against all the odds*, for our members to submit valid claims well in advance of the deadline. UTASS Staff, Trustees and Volunteers were rightly proud of what was achieved in supporting **200** member Farm Businesses.

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: We completed the review of our membership and at the end of 2015 our member household mailing list stood at **424** addresses (**380** farms and **44** other households/agencies/organisations) totalling **1184 members**. On average we received **3** household membership applications per month.

Contact Monitoring Data: **25,435** contacts (**2,220 more** than in 2014) resulting in **24,323** presenting issues.

The most popular support area was administration support, including assistance with form filling, faxing, emails, photocopying etc. (**18,167** instances – **5,595** more than in 2014).

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

Activities, Achievements and Outputs Included:

Providing varying degrees of direct assistance to:



Economic Benefits Gained:

Outcomes arising from most of the work undertaken by UTASS are unquantifiable as, for example, we cannot accurately measure how many people would miss deadlines had they not received information/support from UTASS.

Quantifiable Economic Benefits Gained Included:

- Direct assistance with BPS forms given to **200** farm businesses and the average basic payment of £15,000 equates to approximately **£3,000,000**.
- Direct assistance with BPS forms given to **200** farm businesses. Assume an average Basic Payment of £15,000. Assume 20% 'minor' mistakes with 10% penalties equates to **£60,000.00**. For those farmer members who have agri-environmental agreements - cross compliance penalties would also apply.
- Support on cross compliance if based on 10% of our membership being inspected and 5% receiving penalties equates to **£12,469.00**.
- Businesses supported in the transfer of land and entitlements **£15,000.00**.
- 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 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 **£3,230.00**.
- 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 **£430,635.00**.

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. **11** briefings were produced covering a wide range of topics including CAP Reform, Environmental Stewardship, Satellite Broadband, Common Land, Meadow Surveys, Annual Sheep and Goat Inventory, Basic Payment Scheme, Extraction of Sand and Gravel from Streams and Rivers and RPA Payments.

Those who worked in partnership with us included:

- The Prince's Countryside Fund (PCF)
- National Farmers Union (NFU)
- Natural England
- Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratory Agency (AHVLA)
- North Pennines AONB Partnership
- Castle Vets
- Farm Community Network (FCN)
- Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute (RABI) and Addington
- Middleton - in - Teesdale and Barnard Castle Farmers Auction Marts
- Raby and Strathmore Estates
- Langdon Beck, High Force and Eggleston Show Committees
- South West Durham Enterprise Agency
- Environment Agency
- Rural Payments Agency (RPA)
- Middleton - in - Teesdale and Newbiggin Parish Council
- Eblex
- Bishop Auckland College
- Northumberland and Durham County Councils
- Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership
- CAPIS Digital Support Team
- John Warren ABP
- Durham Constabulary
- Country Landowners Association
- Yorkshire Agricultural Society
- British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- Teesdale and Weardale Action Partnerships
- Durham County Council - Heritage Landscape and Design Team, Children and Young People's Services and Digital Durham
- Country, Landowners Association

- Campaign for Farmed Environment
- Farming Community Network
- Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Training undertaken by UTASS Staff included:

Training

Staff Members

Embracing Digital Technology	Richard Betton, Tessa Wigham, Julia Stephenson, Ann Bell, Anne Scott, Hayley Bell, Diane Spark & Emma Spry
Dementia Awareness	Richard Betton
Farming Advice Service BPS for Agents	Tessa Wigham
RPA Common Land Event	Tessa Wigham
CAP Reform (Workshops & Training)	Richard Betton
RPA Webinars on BPS	Richard Betton, Tessa Wigham, Anne Scott, Ann Bell and Julia Stephenson
New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)	Richard Betton
SITI Farmer (RPA IT Systems)	Richard Betton & Tessa Wigham
CFE Stewardship Event and farm walk	Tessa Wigham
Minibus Driver Awareness Training	Julia Stephenson & Gordon Jones
Village SOS	Emma Spry & Hayley Bell
Natural England Countryside Stewardship Event	Tessa Wigham
IAGSA regional training day and branch meetings	Tessa Wigham
RPA Appeals Panel Training	Tessa Wigham

Training: A wide and varied range of training took place in 2015-

Please see APPENDIX 1 at page 26



Photograph taken at Spray Training

Community Newsletters:

2 New look 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. A new UTASS website was also developed with assistance from Teesside University.

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

- Defra's ongoing meetings re: the replacement requirements for Soil Protection Review
- Attendance and input at summit organized by HRH The Prince of Wales
- Meeting with James Cross, CEO of Natural England
- Follow up with Ministers and local MP, Helen Goodman, on impact of CAP reform on Hill Farming

- Liaison with Helen Goodman MP and Paul Brannen MEP
- Follow up meetings re: Natural England evidence review
- Regular attendance at NE 'Land Agents' briefing
- NFU Council, Regional Board and Upland Group
- Two meetings with Mark Grimshaw RPA CEO
- RPA/NE Workshop on Environmental Livestock Records
- Liaison with RPA Stress Team
- Attendance at FCN Branch meetings, national management team and 20th Anniversary Event
- Feedback to RPA on customer registration and BPS application process
- High Nature Value Farming Conference and Ireland visit
- Expert Witness re: Coach & Horses criminal case
- AONB partnership and North Pennine Chain Local Nature Partnership
- Member of RPA and Natural England Independent Appeals Panels (Public appointment)

Other Agencies & Organisations Supported Included:

Middleton in 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

World War One Exhibition - Middleton Remembers:

In June 2015 UTASS staged an exhibition about Upper Teesdale and the First World War. The exhibition was attended by **295** visitors. Funding for the event came from the Heritage Lottery via Middleton – in – Teesdale and Newbiggin Parish Council.

The exhibition focussed particularly on the **32** from Middleton in Teesdale who did not return and who are remembered on the village war memorial. This was supplemented by further information panels about other servicemen from the local area and information about life in Middleton as the Home Front (including Belgian refugees) settled in Middleton. All the information had been researched by UTASS Staff & Volunteers and Teesdale Heritage Group.



There were four cases of World War One (WW1) related objects loaned to the exhibition by local residents including shell art, uniforms, a Dead Man's Penny, spurs, and many photographs. Feedback from visitors to the exhibition was overwhelmingly positive, with comments such as:

“Thanks to all concerned in such a thought provoking tribute to recognise the contribution of those who served. Small exhibition but BIG impact, especially with the music and voices!”

As well as the textual material there was a sound recording of music and poems from the First World War. The photograph above shows local resident Mr Peter Smedley reciting a WW1 poem at the preview when The Honourable Harry Vane officially opened the exhibition. Sadly – Mr Smedley passed away on 31.12.15.

Two groups of schoolchildren from Middleton-in-Teesdale Primary School visited the exhibition. Pupils from year 1 and year 3 took part in workshops led by UTASS Project Officer, Lucy Jenkins.

Music & Memories:

Fortnightly sessions began in October 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. We would welcome more people along to future sessions.

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 form of livestock and veterinary records, provision of year end stock lists for farm accounts etc. Sheep identification and tagging records continue to be a major concern for farm business and if not maintained accurately can lead to Basic Payment Scheme and environmental scheme penalties. By registering sheep producers on the ARAMS system it is possible to check movement details have been received and processed by them in accordance with on farm records, a similar system to the British Cattle Movement Service but in a more basic format.

UTASS has assisted new cattle keepers, or those who have not kept cattle for many years, register with BCMS and offered support and assistance in the use of the system to register calves and report movements.

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:

- Alston Moor Historic Society – gave talk
- Training North Yorkshire Police on Sheep ID
- Workshop on the work of UTASS for the first Prince's Countryside Fund Forum event at Warwick Racecourse.
- Presentation to Rural Bishops at Prince's Countryside Fund event at Highgrove

UTASS Minibus:

Our existing all abilities minibus was very well used by a range of organisations including Middleton and Forest – in – Teesdale Primary Schools, Upper Teesdale Tourism Network and North Pennines AONB Partnership. Weekly Thursday evening transport continued bringing young people to and from UTASS from the most isolated parts of the upper dale.

The Teesdale Action Partnership funded Minibus Project organized and delivered by UTASS resulted in 7 newly qualified minibus drivers who have passed their D1 Test. This will be of HUGE benefit to their voluntary organisations in and around Teesdale. The project runs until the end of June 2016 so there is still time to do the training and to get minibus passengers out and about!

Massive congratulations go to:

Vince Sewell	Staindrop Scouts
Ian Sowerby	Barnard Castle Scouts
Chris Elstob	Teesdale YMCA
Gina Richardson	UTASS
Lisa Creighton	Barnard Castle Scouts
Sarah Pybus Franklin	St Mary's Church, Cockfield leading various clubs
Craig Mumberson	Staindrop Scouts

Congratulations also to the 12 volunteer drivers who now have MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) certificates, lasting 4 years and who also have the MiDAS handbook provided as part of the course to refer to.

We are also delighted to say that we have been successful in our application to the Government Minibus Fund for another 10 seater minibus, which will also incorporate a ramp for all abilities access. This minibus is expected to arrive in June 2016 and drivers will not need to have D1 on their licence.



Photograph taken at MiDAS Training course

Comments and thanks received from users of UTASS in 2015 included:

"EVERYTHING! Staff so helpful and understanding."

"Always there with help and information when needed. A blessing for the dale!"

"Open and approachable"

"Excellent levels of support across a range of areas for those in need."

"Friendly helpful advice from local people who understand your area. Local knowledge is a great advantage."

"My dad thoroughly enjoys the farmers lunches and really looks forward to going."

"Down to earth help and information."

"It is a focus for the local community. A source of advice and support which is always available."

"My BPS payment has arrived thanks to UTASS assistance."

"Drop in centre, very quick to respond, friendly helpful staff."

"Thanks for your help today, pleased you were there for me."

"The staff are extremely helpful. If they do not have information readily to hand, they are able to access it in a short period of time. Having UTASS available to assist, if and when necessary is a great comfort. and considerably reduces my levels of worry and stress."

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 **10th** year running.

A total of **144** Young People (**68 female and 76 male**) accessed Drop In and Youth Club at UTASS.

Sessions were delivered weekly throughout the year on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Thursday evenings were the most popular with an average attendance of **60** Young People aged 8 – 19 years. An average of **18** Young People aged 8-14 years attended the Monday Night Girls Group. Wednesday evening cookery sessions had an average attendance of **10** young people aged 8-12 years.

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

- Film & 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
- 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:

- Mixed crafts
- Visits to Forbidden Corner, Adventure Valley, Diggerland, Metro Centre & Blue Reef Aquarium
- Bowling, Ice Skating and Lazer Tag
- Sailing at Grassholme Reservoir
- Riot training with the police

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

- Police (Cyber bullying and riot training)
- YMCA
- Rachel Tweddle (Duke of Edinburgh Award)
- Chris Affleck – Investing in Children
- EXCELeRate – Young driver training – see photographs below



Various Young People participated in community events & activities which included:

- Putting together food hampers for the Cameron Relief in Sickness Charity
- Preparing window display materials as part of the Middleton – in – Bloom project
- Making and selling Christmas decorations at the local Christmas Fair
- Fundraising at local car boot sale for Duke of Edinburgh costs

Youth Work Staff & Volunteers training included:

Training	Staff/Volunteer Member/s
Bereavement	Jen Smurthwaite and Gordon Jones
C-Card update	Jen Smurthwaite and Gordon Jones
Never do Nothing (Safeguarding)	Jen Smurthwaite, Gordon Jones, Gina Richardson, Theo Clapp, David Henderson, Marie Wray, Hayley Bell, Helen Scott, Andrew Robinson, Diane Spark
D1 Test (Minibus)	Gina Richardson

Educational Visits:

Two more educational visits funded by The Heart of Teesdale were held in March when Gainford & Startforth Schools came along to the Mart to learn more about farming activities throughout the year. Additional funding from The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust allowed them to see a quad bike and learn important safety messages, particularly relevant to visiting a farm. In October two further Heart of Teesdale funded visits from Cockfield School took place, where the children were considerably younger and from Butterknowle School when the whole school attended. Visits were thoroughly enjoyed by all **124 children**. Comments from children included:

"The video was brill and seeing the tags and knowing how to put a ring in the bulls nose and saying why they have it done and giving birth to lambs."

"Thank you Julia and Jennie for the presentation about hill farming. I didn't know that it was so hard."

"We all learnt so much! My Auntie lives on a farm but I never found out how much sheep and cows cost. Also I didn't know how much fleeces were needed for making 1 carpet."

Low wool prices

I was astonished about how much sheep wool costs I was expecting £30 but 50p was very low. And I think they should say that the price of sheep clipping is £1.00 p.



I think that a machinery should do it for you because it is very hard to do by hand.

"Thank you, now I know what parts of meat you get of a sheep"

A selection of some of the comments made about the Drop In and Youth Club in 2015:

"It's great here cos there's loads of things for us to do."

"You get to see your friends here and get a chance to make new ones."

"We often go on trips to places that we want to go to."

"The staff listen to what we say and try to do the things we ask for if possible."

"You can relax and you can talk to staff in confidence."

"It's EPIC."

"It supports us. The people are always there to help."

"Absolutely fantastic."

"Really friendly and really fun."

"It's good to play and let off steam."

"You miss your friends in the holidays so it's good to be able to come to UTASS and see them."

"If you didn't pick us up on the minibus we wouldn't be able to join in."

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 to create the “Middleton Hub”.

Throughout the year 4 Directors have overseen the Community Interest Company with help from various staff at UTASS.

Part of the NERGN funded activities in 2015 supported a full time Hub Development Worker to 31.3.15 and a contribution to a part time Enterprise Development Worker post between 1.4.15 and 30.9.15. A grant towards the Enterprise Development Worker project 1.4.15. – 31.3.16. was also given by Teesdale Area Action Partnership (TAP). UTASS has again contributed gift in kind office space, telephone, stationary etc. for the project throughout the year.

The main area of work in 2015 has been managing the **4** previously developed business units (Yan, Tyan, Tethera, Methera) in the Aspire Building at Middleton – in – Teesdale Farmers Auction Mart and Pip at UTASS along with the provision of support for the respective tenants. DDECIC also led on the monthly car boot sales and the Christmas Fair which were held at the Mart.

The business units at both the Mart and UTASS sites realised 100% occupancy until July 2015. Businesses who have occupied the units are:

- Yan - The Teesdale Pasty Company (July 2014 – April 2015)
- Yan – H & H (from April 2015)
- Tyan – Jill Marks Acupuncturist (July 2014 To July 2015)
- Tethera – Hotch Potch Upholstery (July 2014 to July 2015)
- Tethera – Farm Pet & Equine (from July 2015)
- Methera – Fresh (July 2014 to July 2015)
- Methera – Hotch Potch Upholstery (from July 2015)
- Pip – Artist Steve Messam (from October 2014)

DDECIC is in year 2 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.

THE RGN grant funded workspace developments at UTASS (co working space on the first floor and refurbished reception facilities on the ground floor) have continued to benefit all who use them.

Outreach Facilities and Services:

Citizens Advice Bureau:

The service operated on a fortnightly basis. Sessions were from 9.00 am to 1.00pm every other Tuesday. Sessions will change in 2016 to Monday afternoons between 1pm and 4pm.

Although the number of sessions provided reduced to bi-weekly the number of clients accessing the service is going up. 2015 saw a slight rise in client contacts from **58** to **61**, and there were a number of users making return visits for help with other issues.

The service still did not run at maximum capacity and could easily accommodate more people in 2016. Appointments are not needed and anyone can just drop in for advice during these times.

The main enquiry areas dealt with over the last year range from employment, fuel issues, consumer problems, housing, pensions and relationships, alongside a number of benefit queries.

Regular feedback from clients 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 have been told about the service from other service users and via the advertisement from the board outside the centre.

Durham County Council: Monthly - Community Support Staff offering drop in advice surgeries.

George F White: Monthly- Farmer advice clinics.

Teesdale Physiotherapy: Pilates sessions on Wednesdays (am).

Tranquil Treatments : Beauty Therapies on Fridays since June.

Chiropodist Services: On a 6 weekly basis.

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

South Durham Enterprise Agency: Weekly - Rural Enterprise Development Officer – until March.

RPA: Open day and support sessions with BPS applications (May & June)

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

- Teesdale Heritage Group (social events, storage of artefacts and archiving)
- Bowes Museum (meetings)
- Middleton – in – Teesdale Primary and Nursery School (meetings)
- Durham Community Action (training suite)
- Middleton Plus (meeting)
- Upper Teesdale Churches Together (Dementia Friends meeting)
- Farmwatch (meetings)
- Middleton Christmas Lights Group (storage of Christmas lights)
- The Cameron Relief in Sickness Fund (meetings and administration)

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.**

Volunteer Contributions:

A fantastic amount of gift in kind hours equating to **£112,962.00** (almost a 6% **increase** 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.

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.....

Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmoore

UTASS Chairperson

APPENDIX 1

DATE	TRAINING SESSION OFFERED	ATTENDEES
10.1.15	Car driving (Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust)	2 x 4 lessons
16.1.15	NPTC Spray Theory Training & Assessment at UTASS	18
16.1.15	NPTC Cert. of Comp. Transport of Livestock Assessment	1
21.1.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	7
22.1.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	7
26.1.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	6
4.2.15	RGN Marketing Workshop	9
19.2.15	Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving (Sir Tom Cowie Ch Trust)	2
19.2.15	EXCElerate Young People's Driver Training	14
20.2.15	Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving (STCCT)	2
25.2.15	"Never Do Nothing" Safeguarding	11
26.2.15	Lambing Course at Castle Vets	8
6.3.15-12.3.15	TAP Minibus (D1) Lessons (2 candidates achieved D1)	2 x 5 days
9.3.15	Educational Visit by Gainford School to Middleton Mart including Farm Safety Awareness Session (HoT/STCCT)	25
16.3.15	NPTC Spray Theory Training & Assessment at UTASS	13
19.3.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	6
20.3.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	4
20.3.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	3
23.3.15	Car driving (STCCT)	2 x 4 lessons
25.3.15	Pre Test Tractor Training (STCCT)	1
27.3.15	Educational Visit by Startforth School to Middleton Mart including Farm Safety Awareness Session (HoT/STCCT)	33
29.3.15	Quad Bike Training (STCCT)	2
19.5.15	NPTC Spray Theory Training & Assessment at UTASS	17
21.5.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	5
22.5.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	7
26.5.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	6
Various to 30.5.15	Trailer training (STCCT)	4 x 3 lessons
27.6.15 & 28.6.15	BWMB 2 Day Shearing Course at Baldersdale (50% HoT)	9
4.7.15	Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving (STCCT)	2
14.7.15	Village Halls Website training (Training Room venue only)	17
July 15	UTASS Website & Spreadsheet monitoring	2
10.8.15	NPTC Spray Theory Training & Assessment at UTASS	10
11.8.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	6
12.8.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	8
To 9.9.15	TAP Minibus Training towards D1 Test - Theory Tests passed & awaiting practical lessons & test	5

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

DATE	TRAINING SESSION OFFERED	ATTENDEES
9.9.15	Staff & Trustee Training Event	12
16.9.15	Minibus Tests at Darlington, following minibus lessons	2
21.9.15	UTASS Digital IT	8
29.9.15	Minibus Tests at Darlington, following minibus lessons	2
7.10.15	NPTC Safe Use of Sheep Dip following 2 training sessions	8
12+13.10.15	Minibus Awareness Training (MiDAS) at Middleton	5
15.10.15	Educational Visit by Cockfield School	32
20.10.15	Educational Visit by Butterknowle School	34
21.10.15	NPTC Spray Theory Training & Assessment at UTASS	17
22.10.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	7
23.10.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	5
26.10.15	NPTC practical Spray Training at Middleton Mart	9
3.11.15	Essential First Aid – St John’s Ambulance (3 hrs)	6
3.11.15-24.11.15	Introduction to Internet Training – 4wks x 2.5 hr sessions	9
From 30.5. -24.11.15	Pre Test Tractor Training (STCCT)	2
14.11.15	Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving (STCCT)	2
Various to 31.12.15	Car driving lessons (STCCT)	3 x 3 lessons
Various to 31.12.15	Trailer training (STCCT)	2 x 3 lessons

** 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 2015

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	29,930	145,487	175,417	140,923
Investments	3	1,833	–	1,833	1,817
Charitable activities	4	14,068	79,168	93,236	148,716
Total Income		<u>45,831</u>	<u>224,655</u>	<u>270,486</u>	<u>291,456</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	(79,991)	(189,777)	(269,768)	(298,512)
Total Expenditure		<u>(79,991)</u>	<u>(189,777)</u>	<u>(269,768)</u>	<u>(298,512)</u>
Net					
Income/(Expenditure)	6	(34,160)	34,878	718	(7,056)
Transfer between funds	7	44,257	(44,257)	–	–
		10,097	(9,379)	718	(7,056)
Other Recognised Gains and Losses					
Gains on revaluation of investment assets		446	–	446	–
Net Movement in Funds		<u>10,543</u>	<u>(9,379)</u>	<u>1,164</u>	<u>(7,056)</u>
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		112,848	58,391	171,239	178,295
Total Funds Carried Forward		<u>123,391</u>	<u>49,012</u>	<u>172,403</u>	<u>171,239</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

THE FULL ACCOUNTS (21 PAGES) ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited

Balance Sheet

31 December 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	9	49,664	28,702
Investments	10	2,143	–
		<u>51,807</u>	<u>28,702</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	6,199	14,904
Cash at bank and in hand		125,141	135,895
		<u>131,340</u>	<u>150,799</u>
Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year	12	<u>(10,744)</u>	<u>(8,262)</u>
Net Current Assets		120,596	142,537
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>172,403</u>	<u>171,239</u>
Net Assets		<u>172,403</u>	<u>171,239</u>
Funds			
Restricted funds	14	49,012	58,391
Unrestricted funds	15	123,391	112,848
Total Funds		<u>172,403</u>	<u>171,239</u>

For the year ended 31 December 2015 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 and are signed on their behalf by:

.....
Dr J C Nainby-Luxmoore

Company Registration Number: 06054331