



2017 Annual Report

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Photograph on the front cover courtesy of Gordon A. Jones

Patrons, Honorary Officers & Management Committee Trustees:

Patrons:

12th Lord Barnard DL

The Reverend Rachel Benson DL

Professor Dr Patrick Lavery

Sir Paul Nicholson

Lady Nicholson

19th 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) until 29.12.17.

Peter Ellis (Specialist Advisor) until 25.1.17.

Kay Hutchinson

Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmoore (Honorary Chairperson) until 9.5.17.

Richard Matthews (Honorary Vice Chairperson) until 9.5.17. (Chairperson) from 9.5.17.

Roy Oxby

Robyn Peat (Honorary Vice-Chairperson) from 9.5.17.

Amanda Simpson from 26.9.17.

*Carl Stephenson

*Ian Tallentire

Sally Ann Teward

Rachel Watson

UTASS Core & Project Staff:

Stephen Beddard	Caretaker/Cleaner at Mart/Aspire Building (until 30.6.17.)
Ann Bell	Office Systems, Monitoring & Administration Support Worker
Richard Betton	Local Farmers' Liaison Worker
Theo Clapp	Sessional Youth Worker
Alison Greaves	Administration Support Worker
Lucy Jenkins	Project Officer – Funding (until 31.12.17.)
Gina Richardson	Sessional Youth Worker
Anne Scott	Administration & Support Worker (Finance)
Jennifer Smurthwaite	Domestic Support Worker (also 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 Fletcher	Administration Support Worker
Tessa Wigham	Agricultural Secretary

*Denotes also DDECIC Director

Other Associated Staff:

Zelda Heney - Auxiliary Worker employed by Durham County Council (until 31.3.17.)

Andrew Robinson - Auxiliary Worker employed by Durham County Council (until 31.3.17.)

Jennifer Smurthwaite - Youth Worker employed by Durham County Council (until 31.3.17.)

Alison Walker - Advice Worker employed by Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) county Durham and funded by UTASS.

Chairperson's Report:

2017 was another very busy and successful year for UTASS as we exceeded all of our target outputs. The support that UTASS provides is as important now as ever, with the looming prospect of Brexit and the uncertainty surrounding farm support throwing up new challenges for the farming world. Encouragingly, in our Annual Service Users Survey 81% of responders said that UTASS helps to reduce stress for them and that it also reduces isolation and improves health. You can read the full results of the survey at APPENDIX 3 on page 32. Space precludes an exhaustive list of all UTASS' news, but here is a flavour of some highlights.

This last year saw some changes to the staff and Trustees of UTASS. Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmoore had been Chairperson for nearly ten years and even longer as a Trustee. Jonathan has stood down from the Chairperson's role but luckily agreed to remain on the Board of Trustees, so UTASS will still be able to benefit from his considerable experience. I'm sure you will all want to join me in thanking Jonathan for his hard work, dedication and professionalism during his time as Chairperson.

We are very pleased to welcome Bob Danby onto the permanent staff. Bob will already be well known to many of you having been a Trustee and Treasurer for UTASS for many years, and we are delighted that he will be job sharing the Project Manager's post with Diane Spark. We also welcomed Amanda Simpson on to the Board of Trustees in September.

As we wait to hear whether our application to The Big Lottery has been successful, we are, as always, very grateful to our funders large and small. As usual, in 2017 our funds came from numerous sources, and, in the case of the grants that we receive, are due to in no small part to the tireless work of the UTASS staff members who apply for them. The Friends of UTASS remain an important source of funds, raising £4,600 for us this year.

Sadly Joan Drew, one of UTASS' staunch supporters, passed away in May. Despite her illness, Joan had insisted that her Open Garden event was to go

ahead, which it did, raising £380 in donations. Joan also most generously remembered UTASS in her will, leaving a legacy of £24,000.

Communication is an increasingly vital resource for isolated rural communities and, with this in mind, an open meeting was held at UTASS in June to explore fibre broadband opportunities for the Upper Dale. Libby Bateman, who led the successful Fell End broadband project, was present, as were representatives from BT. Many members from the Upper Dale attended, as well as our Patron Lord Barnard.

"The Mad Potter's Tea Party" took place in June as part of the Great Get Together celebrations in memory of Jo Cox. It provided a chance for UTASS to showcase the range of work it undertakes, from its core work supporting the farming community to community support with outreach facilities such as Durham Dales Carers, weekly visits from a beauty therapist, Citizens Advice and the opportunity of a venue for Cruse Bereavement Care.

Provision of training remains a core aspect of UTASS' work, and in 2017 courses on a variety of topics were delivered, including dry stone walling, sheep shearing, emergency first aid and the safe use of pesticides.

UTASS' youth sessions continue to be well attended, with Monday nights girls' sessions and Thursday's youth club seeing children bussed in from the Upper Dale in the UTASS minibus by our valued team of volunteer drivers.

"100 years of Twp Sales in Middleton in Teesdale", a highly popular exhibition of photographs, was organised at UTASS in September by Anne Scott and John Stephenson of the Swaledale Sheep Breeders Association. In fact it was so popular that it had to be extended, with many people visiting it and enjoying recognising familiar faces from round the Dale in their more youthful days.



Photo courtesy of Anne Scott

Two monthly sessions continue to be popular; Music and Memories at UTASS and the socials/lunches at Barnard Castle, Middleton in Teesdale and St Johns Chapel.

These provide an important meeting place for retired farmers in Teesdale and Weardale.



Music & Memories Monthly Session - Photo courtesy of The Teesdale Mercury

Our partnership with the Durham Dales Enterprise Community Interest Company (DDECIC) continues to provide a source of some of our core funds, with the units at the mart in the Aspire Building generally being filled all year, and with many UTASS members benefitting from the improved working and meeting facilities there.

UTASS was delighted to be chosen as a delivery partner for the Prince's Farm Resilience Programme. This programme was launched by HRH The Prince of Wales in July 2016, with the aim of supporting farm businesses through a programme of one to one support and business workshops. The programme aims to support the UK farming sector, provide a safe environment for farming families, improve confidence, create networks and improve efficiency and productivity.



Two Rural Highlights performances were staged at UTASS in the latter part of the year: 'Standing in Line,' a very personal story about the First World War, and 'Harvest,' a dark comedy about one rural family's survival in a changing agricultural landscape. We were also privileged to host a presentation and slide show about the Border Reivers by local poet John Barton Watson.



The 2017 annual Middleton Christmas Fair saw 54 stallholders and over 400 people braving the seasonably freezing weather to attend the event in Middleton Mart.



Photo courtesy of Emma Spry

2018 marks the 25th year since the work of UTASS began, and it is wonderful that it continues to thrive and provide so many vital services to the community of the Upper Dale. To finish, I would like to thank our patrons, funders and all the staff and volunteers who, through their hard work and dedication, continue to make UTASS an organisation that is the envy of many. I am very honoured to take on the role of Chairperson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "R. I. Matthews".

Richard Matthews
UTASS Chairperson

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 2017, 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.
- Twice weekly sessions for children and young people.
- 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.
- Development of a Theatre Group.
- 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, Alzheimer's Society and Durham County Carers.
- Provision of facilities for Pilates and yoga 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.
- Administration and collection point for the N E First Credit Union.
- Distribution of the Parish Councils dog poo bags.
- 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.

Suggested future activities, services and provision includes taking on the management and development of the oil bulk buying group, a book exchange and providing facilities for Post Office facilities. A varied selection of events and activities are planned for our 25th anniversary year in 2018.

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:

The application process worked better this year than it did in 2016 as downtime occurrences were minimal. The RPA's computerised system was responsive apart from a couple of days when applications had to be submitted on behalf of members later in the day or after 5pm. There were still issues with all applications pertaining to Pikelaw and Hudeshope. The RPA's mapping refresh in August led to us receiving a plethora of emails. We reacted strategically before the true extent of the problem unfolded, assessing the situation and then checked maps with members and filled in RLE1's as appropriate. Once again many of our members had been underpaid for the 2016 scheme year. This was mainly due to RPA errors duplicated from the previous scheme year (particularly common land and missing land parcels).

As in previous years visits were made to the RPA drop in centre in Carlisle to submit various BPS related paperwork.

Graziers Groups: We 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. Richard Betton also became a Field Reeve for Bowes Moor.

UTASS Membership: At the end of 2017 our member household mailing list stood at **470** addresses which is an increase of **31** households from last year. This membership consists of **404** farms and **66** other households/agencies/organisations - totalling **1410** members. On average we received **3** new membership applications per month.

Contact Monitoring Data: **27,239** contacts (**36** less than in 2016) resulting in **29,133** presenting issues (**221** more than in 2016).

The most popular support area was administration support, including assistance with form filling, faxing, emails, photocopying etc. (**22,170** instances **2,236** more than in 2016).

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 conservative assumptions of errors prevented and associated penalties avoided.

Quantifiable Economic Benefits Gained Included:

- Direct assistance with BPS forms given to **193** farm businesses (**36** fewer than in 2016) and the average basic payment of **£18,725.00** equates to approximately **£3,613,925.00**
- Direct assistance with BPS forms given to **193** farm businesses. Assume an average Basic Payment of £18,725.00. Assume 20% 'minor' mistakes with 10% penalties equates to **£672,278.50** 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% of those receiving penalties equates to over **£17,000.00**.
- 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.
- Support given with **25** Hedgerow & Boundary grant applications average £5,000.00 each equates to **£125,000.00**.
- 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 **£3,434.00**.
- 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 **£457,833.00**.

Independent evaluations of the impact of the work of UTASS have been undertaken by Rose Regeneration. 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 **£8.97**
- Out of hours service **£8.77**.
- Music & Memories activities **£12.11**.

The 2018 UTASS calendar was produced and sold alongside UTASS Christmas cards. All photographs used were given to UTASS by members and supporters. The sale of our calendars and cards increases year on year and provides a valuable source of income towards the work of the charity.

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 Hedgerow and Boundary Grants, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Avian Flu, BPS, HLS/UELS, Record Keeping, Succession Planning, Commons Issues, Making Tax Digital and The Prince's Farm Resilience Programme.

Those who worked in partnership with us included:

- Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
- Castle Vets
- Commons Foundation
- Country Landowners Association
- Durham Constabulary
- Durham County Council (Digital Durham)
- Environment Agency
- Farming Community Network (FCN)
- Harrison & Hetherington
- Highlights (Rural Touring Scheme)
- Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators (IAgSA)
- Jo Cox Foundation
- John Warren ABP
- Langdon Beck, High Force, Eggleston, Stanhope and Wolsingham Show Committees
- McGarry & Co Solicitors
- Middleton - in - Teesdale and Barnard Castle Farmers Auction Marts
- Middleton - in - Teesdale and Newbiggin Parish Council

- Middleton – in – Teesdale Co-op
- Middleton in Bloom
- National Farmers Union (NFU)
- Natural England
- North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership
- North Sheep
- Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership
- Durham County Council
- Old Forge Surgery
- Raby and Strathmore Estates
- Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute (RABI) and Addington
- Rural Payments Agency (RPA)
- South West Durham Enterprise Agency
- Swaledale Sheep Breeders Association
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)
- Teesdale and Weardale Area Action Partnerships
- Teesdale Mercury
- Tees River Trust
- The Prince's Countryside Fund (PCF) Farm Resilience Programme
- Upland Alliance
- Various Land Agents and Solicitors
- Woodland Trust
- Yorkshire Agricultural Society
- Yorkshire Rural Support Network
- Yorkshire Dales National Park

Training undertaken by UTASS Staff included:

<u>Training</u>	<u>Staff Members</u>
MiDAS Minibus Driving	Alison Greaves
Emergency First Aid at Work	Julia Stephenson
Units 1-4 (5 days) IAgSA training	Emma Spry
Units 1-3 (3 days) IAgSA training	Charlotte Fletcher
Mental Health Awareness	Richard Betton
Media Training	Richard Betton
Health & Safety	Richard Betton
Listening Skills	Richard Betton
Princes Farm Resilience Programme Webinar	Emma Spry & Tess Wigham

Training Provided:

In response to requests from community members a wide and varied range of training took place including our tried and tested favourite - the British Wool Shearing Training – please see details at Appendix 1 on page 29

Training opportunities were advertised in Briefings, Newsletters, local press, Facebook, via Area Action Partnerships and on the Training Opportunities page of our website.

The two year programme “Weardale Rural Skills Training” funded from Weardale Action Partnership provided support for training on a range of farming skills. This project is due to finish in early 2018.

We were successful in finding another new funder for young people’s driver training.

In addition to The Wellesley Trust Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland The Hedley Foundation have also offered to fund driver training activities. We are so grateful to them both as this



Photo courtesy of Julia Stephenson

has paved the way to help many young people overcome the barriers of social isolation and gain access to employment and training.



VAT Training Session - Photo courtesy of The Teesdale Mercury

Training on VAT spreadsheets using Excel and Getting on Line was delivered by Sarah Peart during November and December. This training was funded by The Sir James Knott Trust.

Comments from trainees have been very positive:
"Thank you so much for helping me with this entire process. I am very grateful to you and the service UTASS provides"

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 and training opportunities as well as details of items for sale or required by members. Comprehensive lists of sales dates for all 5 of our local Farmers Auction Marts also featured. The UTASS website is now maintained to offer electronic versions of the newsletter.

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 Paul Caldwell RPA CEO
- Ministerial visit with George Eustice on Result Based Agri-Environment Payment Scheme (RBAPS)
- DEFRA Animal Movement Regime (at UTASS)
- Bovine TB
- HRH The Prince of Wales with Farming Community Network at Westmorland Show
- RDPE National Consultation
- RABI "Meet the Chair"

- National Brexit Forum
- St George's House National Brexit Forum
- Meeting with RPA Commons Team
- Liaison with RPA Stress Team
- Attendance at FCN Branch meetings, national management team and conference
- Feedback to RPA on the BPS application process
- High Nature Value Farming (HNVF) development and chairing 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)
- Upland Alliance workshop on future hill policy
- Worshipful Company of Farmers and Fletchers - Health & Wellbeing Forum
- Submission to EFRA Select Committee

Other Agencies & Organisations Supported Included:

Upper Teesdale Churches

Swaledale Sheep Breeders Association (SSBA)

Eggleston Parish Council

Eggleston Village Committee

Middleton-in-Teesdale Fitness Suite

The Friends of Middleton-in-Teesdale School

Wear and Tees Farmwatch

Teesdale Heritage Group

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

Beaconsfield and Manor House Care Homes

Middleton – in – Teesdale and Newbiggin Parish Council

Upper Teesdale Botany Group

Investing in Children

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme:

In October **37** people attended a production by Lester Simpson & Blaize called “Standing in Line” – portraying a very personal story of the Great War. In November **55** people attended a play by New Perspectives Theatre called Harvest – about a farming family in East Yorkshire who had to fight for their survival against a rapidly changing world.

We hope to stage more productions in 2018 alongside licensed bars and hot suppers.

Music & Memories:

Monthly sessions ran throughout the year on Tuesdays between 2.30pm and 3.30pm. Participants enjoyed singing along to a range of memorable old songs, accompanied by our friends Mike and Graham with their ukuleles. The UTASS minibuses were regularly used by UTASS staff and volunteers to transport Manor House and Beaconsfield Care home residents to and from the sessions. In addition cakes made by our Monday Night Girls Group were served up with a refreshing cuppa. Attendances were local people **23**, Manor House **58** and Beaconsfield **34**.

Monthly Farmers Social/Lunch Sessions:

Continued to take place at Middleton – in – Teesdale and Barnard Castle Farmers Auction Mart and St John’s Chapel Town Hall. Average attendance at each session was **20** people.

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. We also had information stands at North Sheep, Stanhope and Wolsingham Shows.



Photo courtesy of Anne Scott

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, registering calves, moving cattle, maintaining and creating accurate flock and herd registers – all required to avoid penalties being incurred in Basic and Environmental Scheme payments.

Sheep identification and tagging records continue to be an area of concern and confusion amongst livestock producers, although the introduction of Temporary Land Associations (TLA's) and Temporary Holding Numbers (THN's) has made the reporting of movements less onerous. UTASS has applied for a number of TLA's & THN's on behalf of our members.

Unrequested mapping changes carried out by the RPA in the autumn of 2017 as a result of an EU requirement to avoid massive disallowances created a significant additional amount of work. UTASS received over 400 emails from the RPA relating to mapping changes. Approximately 80% of our farming members had one or more land parcels subject to change – many of which were incorrect or historic. RLE1 forms and maps were submitted on behalf of these businesses in readiness for BPS applications in 2018.

Emma Spry and Charlotte Fletcher completed their training with the Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators (IAgSA) and will be shadowing Richard and Tessa in the future with BPS, mapping and general grant/scheme agreement work.

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:

- Changes to NHS Services
- Upper Teesdale Broadband
- Succession Planning & Brexit
- Police and Community - meeting
- Border Reivers - presentation
- UTASS presentation to local Labour Party
- Auckland Trust - presentation
- French Students – presentation
- Wolsingham Show – information stand
- Stanhope Show – information stand
- North Sheep – information stand

UTASS Minibuses:

Our community minibuses continue to be used by various local organisations on a not for profit basis. User groups included Middleton – in – Teesdale Primary School, Turrets, AONB and Barnard Castle Brownies.

The larger 15 seat minibus has continued to be used regularly but the newer 10 seat minibus was not been utilised to the levels that we'd hoped for – despite drivers not needing to have D1 category on their driving licence.

Congratulations to the **19** 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.



Photo courtesy of Anne Scott

Comments and thanks received from users of UTASS in 2017 included:

*"Best of all it's local
so help is always
relevant."*

*"The lunches let me
meet up with old
friends."*

*"A very good signpost,
if they don't know, they'll
find out."*

**"They never
judge you -
always a smile
and a laugh."**

*"Staff are local
who speak the same
language."*

*"Happy to go the
extra mile to assist us."*

*"The Youth work
is very good and
much needed."*

**"Provides a
meeting point for
isolated people."**

*"The best thing
that has
happened to
Teesdale."*

*"Trains young
people with
farming skills."*

*"Always accessible,
positive and eager
to help. "*

*"I trust the
expertise that
UTASS has."*

*"The Ambiance of
the building."*

*"The Staff
make UTASS
what is it!"*

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**.



Photo courtesy of Gordon Jones

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 **12th** year running. We worked with Investing in Children on a project to bring young people from the Gypsy Roma & Traveller, Refugee and Asylum Seeking and Upland Farming communities to explore their heritage and sense of place.

A total of **107** Young People (**50 female and 57 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 **45** Young People aged 8 – 19 years. An average of **20** 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. Thursday evening sessions for young people aged 13 – 19 stopped on 31.3.17. when Durham County Council ceased to employ front line youth work staff. Going forward UTASS will be seeking funding to provide appropriate support and facilities for 13 – 19 year olds.

Young people helped with events including the Great Get Together (Jo Cox Foundation) community event.

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
- Gymnastics



Photo courtesy of Jen Smurthwaite

School holiday and offsite activities included:



Photo courtesy of Andrew Robinson

- Mixed crafts
- Cinema
- Roller skating
- Trampolining
- Bowling
- Ice Skating
- Laser Tag
- Sailing at Grassholme Reservoir
- Karting

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

- Chris Affleck – Investing in Children
- Police - Cyber bullying and safe use of internet
- Fire Service – Road Safety Awareness

A selection of some of the comments made about the Drop In and Youth Club in 2017:

"I enjoy using the gymnastics mats at UTASS on a Thursday night!"

"I love to come and see my friends at UTASS."

"It's really fun!."

"It's a great place to meet up and spend time with friends outside of school."

"The staff and volunteers are really friendly."

"I look forward to coming to UTASS, I get the chance to do things I wouldn't normally do."

"We would have no where to go is it were not for UTASS."

"I like to see my friends and play dodgeball."

"I like to spend time outside school at UTASS, especially to meet my friends."

"There's lots to do at UTASS."

"I like to do crafts at UTASS."

"UTASS trips are always good fun!"

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 2017 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.

DDECIC was in year 4 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 2017 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.

Tenants in Business Units:

- Yan – Harrison & Hetherington
- Tyan – Olwen Williams – Artist (until May) then Simmi Performance (from July)
- Tethera – Farm Pet & Equine
- Methera – Sweet Tooth (until May) - Young Rural Entrepreneur then Simmi Performance (from July)
- Pip – Artist Steve Messam

Plans/priorities for 2018:

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

Outreach Facilities and Services:

Citizens Advice Bureau:

The UTASS service continued to operate fortnightly on a Monday from 10am -1pm. Appointments were not needed as anyone could just drop in for advice and assistance on a wide range of issues during these times.

During 2017, the project saw 50 clients with a range of issues. The main enquiry areas dealt with were benefits, employment, housing and disability transport.

The UTASS outreach continues to be an appreciated resource as it means that the local community can access advice and information without having to travel all the way to the main office in Barnard Castle. Word of mouth remains the primary route of publicising the service.

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 Support Officer – by appointment.

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

Alzheimer's Society: Weekly on Fridays.

June Wainwright: Yoga on Tuesdays.

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
- Friends of Middleton 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
- Radio Appeal (MAC)
- Citizens Advice Bureau, Energy Saving Surgeries
- Durham Constabulary
- Sweet Tooth
- Cotherstone Village Show

Funders, Assisters & Advisors:

Please see APPENDIX 2, page 30. 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 **£136,823.80** (an **increase** of just over **8%** 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, Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7HQ.

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..........

Richard Matthews

UTASS Chairperson

Date... 01/06/2018

APPENDIX 1 - Training 2017

DATE	TRAINING SESSION OFFERED	ATTENDEES PER DAY
19,20,23,24,25 Jan	Minibus Minibus Driving Lessons + D1 Test	2 x 5 days
20.2.17	Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving	2
21.2.17	Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving	2
4.3.17	Emergency First Aid at Work	1
20.3.17	Minibus Driver Awareness Training (Standard Minibuses)	1
5.5.17	Minibus Driver Awareness Training (Accessible Minibuses)	4
16.5.17	NPTC Rough Terrain Forklift Training	3
17.5.17	NPTC Rough Terrain Forklift Training (assessment later)	3
22.5.17	NPTC Spray Theory Training & Assessment at UTASS	8
23.5.17	Safe Use of Pesticides – Mounted Equip Train (assess later)	6
27.5.17	Safe Use of Pesticides - Handheld Equip Train (assess later)	7
22.6.17	British Wool Training Shearing Course	4
23.6.17	British Wool Training Shearing Course	4
4.7.17	Quad Bike Training	2
22.7.17	Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving	2
18.8.17	Emergency First Aid Training	6
2-4.10.17	Drystone Walling Training	3 x 3 days
15.11.17	VAT Training using Excel (2.5 hrs)	5 x 2.5 hrs
22.11.17	VAT Training using Excel (2.5 hrs)	6 x 2.5 hrs
29.11.17	VAT Training using Excel (2.5 hrs)	6 x 2.5 hrs
6.12.17	VAT Training using Excel (2.5 hrs)	6 x 2.5 hrs
13.12.17	VAT Training using Excel (2.5 hrs)	6 x 2.5 hrs
13.12.17	Training session with Sarah Peart re E-mails	2 x 2hrs
<i>Various to 31.12.17</i>	Trailer Test Trainees	12 x 2.5 days
<i>Various to 31.12.17</i>	Pre Test Tractor	2 x 0.25 days
<i>Various to 31.12.17</i>	Car Driving Lessons	2 x 2.5 days

Thanks to all our funders for the training courses during 2017: The Wellesley Trust Fund at The Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, Teesdale Action Partnership, Weardale Action Partnership, The Sir James Knott Trust and Hedley Foundation. Thanks too to all trainers for helping trainees, especially young people, to achieve their goals.

Grateful thanks too for the team effort to make young people's driver training possible – this time involving tractors & trailers kindly loaned by Watsons of Strand Foot; Karl, Loraine & Michael Robinson and Peter & Barbara Needham & Stuart Richardson and latterly to Jamie & Rosie Finch and Trevor & Amanda Simpson & family for hosting the Lantra training. The venue is usually provided by kind permission of Middleton in Teesdale Mart, with voluntary help from H & H Staff, community & UTASS Members.

APPENDIX 2

Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited

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

Year Ended 31 December 2017

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Income and Endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	47,360	130,875	178,235	235,186
Income from charitable activities	5	15,666	24,878	40,544	87,260
Investment income	6	1,555	—	1,555	1,811
Other income	7	10,129	—	10,129	31,833
Total Income		74,710	155,753	230,463	356,090
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8	(113,442)	(148,819)	(262,261)	(284,813)
Total Expenditure		(113,442)	(148,819)	(262,261)	(284,813)
Net (Expenditure)/Income Before Transfer					
	9	(38,732)	6,934	(31,798)	71,277
Transfer between funds	10	8,990	(8,990)	—	—
Net (Expenditure)/Income for the Year		(29,742)	(2,056)	(31,798)	71,277
Other Recognised Gains and Losses					
Gains on revaluation of investment assets		2,055	—	2,055	2,395
Net Movement in Funds		(27,687)	(2,056)	(29,743)	73,672
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		175,074	60,190	235,264	161,592
Total Funds Carried Forward		147,387	58,134	205,521	235,264

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

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited

Balance Sheet

31 December 2017

	Note	2017 £	£	2016 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	12		64,376	80,114
Investments	13		21,864	19,809
			<u>86,240</u>	<u>99,923</u>
Current Assets				
Debtors	14	10,640		16,621
Cash at bank and in hand		127,975		139,171
		<u>138,615</u>		<u>155,792</u>
Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year	15	<u>(19,334)</u>		<u>(20,451)</u>
Net Current Assets			<u>119,281</u>	<u>135,341</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			<u>205,521</u>	<u>235,264</u>
Net Assets			<u>205,521</u>	<u>235,264</u>
Funds of the Charity				
Restricted funds	17		58,134	60,190
Capital funds representing fixed assets	18		86,240	99,923
Unrestricted funds	18		61,147	75,151
Total Charity Funds			<u>205,521</u>	<u>235,264</u>

For the year ended 31 December 2017 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 23/3/18 and are signed on their behalf by:


R Matthews

Company Registration Number: 06054331

APPENDIX 3 – Members Users Survey Findings

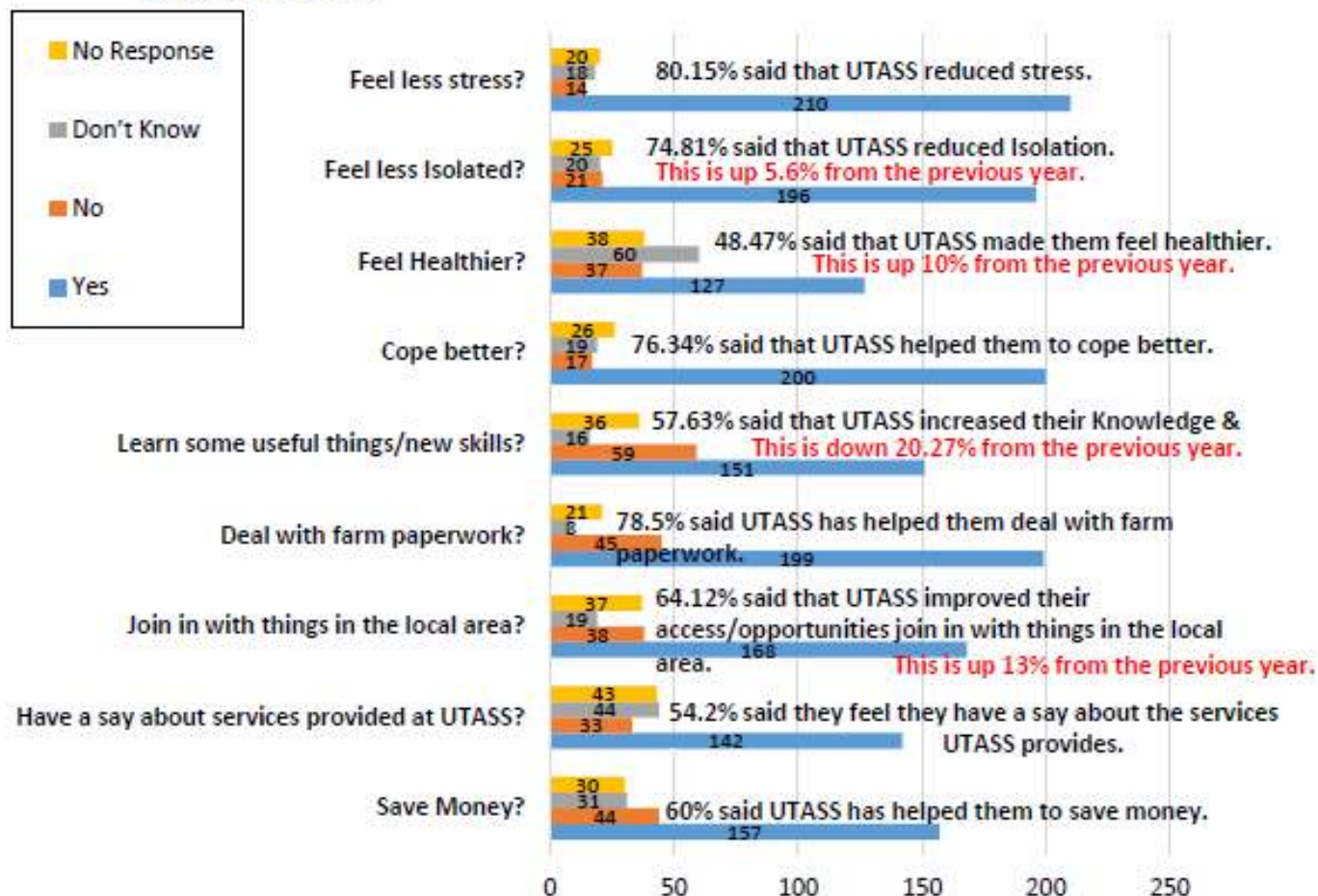
Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Ltd (UTASS)

There were 262 responses to this years survey. This is up by 52.33% from the previous year.

Question 1.

Thinking about yourself or anyone else in your household;

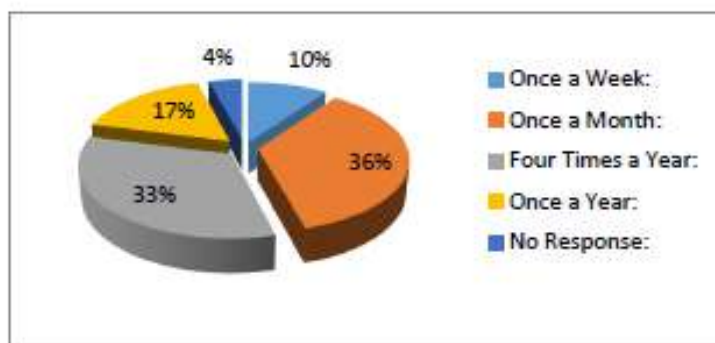
Over the last year would you say that the services, assistance or opportunities offered through UTASS has helped people to:



Question 2.

How often do you use UTASS?

Once a Week:	26
Once a Month:	94
Four Times a Year:	87
Once a Year:	44
No Response:	11



Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Ltd (UTASS)

Question 3.

If UTASS wasn't here, where else would you get this support from?

71.8% Said they wouldn't know where they would get the same support from

7.6% Gave no response

20.6% Gave the following suggestions:

27 → Land Agent	1 → DEFRA
14 → NFU	1 → Health Authority
4 → CAB (Citizens Advice)	1 → South Durham Enterprise Agency
3 → Accountant	1 → If you care share foundation
3 → RPA Helpline	1 → Samaritans
3 → Library	1 → CLA
3 → Barnard Castle	1 → Solicitor
3 → Online	1 → Publications
2 → Auction Marts	1 → There is nowhere!
1 → Trading Standards	

Question 4.

Please tell us

.. .. What you feel is good about UTASS?

(216 Responses)

"Very Helpful. Taken all the stress out of form filling and many other things."

"Friendly approachable & knowledgeable and always willing to help."

"It provides a valuable service to help dales farmers cope with accessing farm returns digitally and also provides a meeting point for isolated people, particularly youngsters,

"All staff are always very polite & helpful and

"Always there to help & guide. Don't know

"Always very friendly and willing to help with any problems including paperwork, form filling and advice on many matters."

"That the support is there. Teesdale is lucky

"Local Staff - Friendly & expert knowledge available."

.. .. How you think UTASS might be improved?

(53 Responses)

"Just keep on doing what you already do so brilliantly."

"If long term funding could be found then less rescourses would need to be used in fund raising, thus releasing staff to provide the services so desperately needed."

"It is already a first class service and very little room for improvement."

"Keep going as you are, a good team with appropriate knowledge."

"Friendship group maybe need to meet as a group at UTASS."

"Might work more closely with The RSPB to deliver plan conservation schemes."

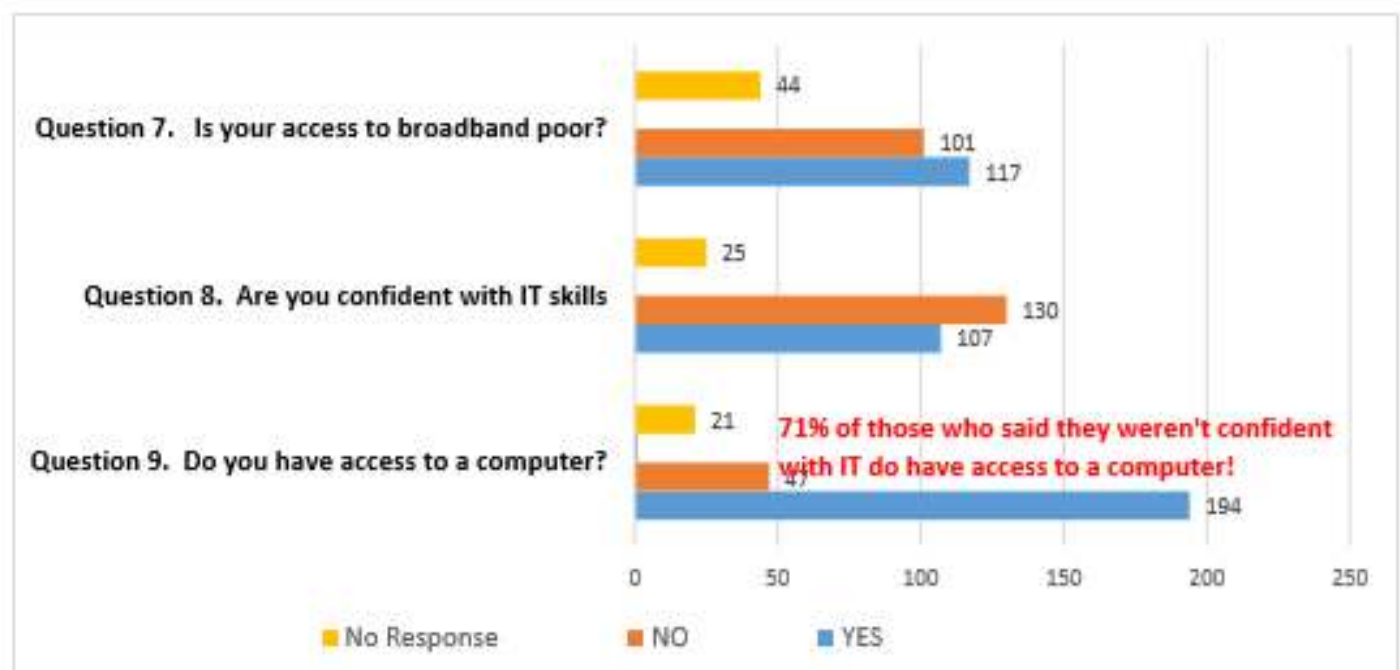
"Extend their area to cover more marginal farms and fight their cause nationally. Offer support throughout BREXIT and ensuing years to all grassland farms in the area including

Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Ltd (UTASS)

Question 5.

Are there any additional services you feel that UTASS could offer?

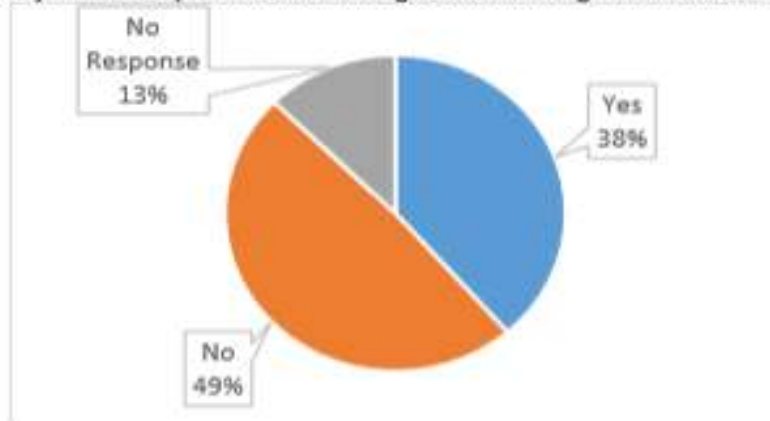
- Community cars for people to share the use of instead of owning a 'little used' car themselves.
- Group purchasing power.
- More help with red tape.
- Hospital visiting transport.
- A 'shed' facility for people to repair furniture/bikes etc for themselves or to re-sell to the community.
- A homeless facility.
- Any additional services that may be beneficial with regards to BREXIT.
- Credit Union access point.
- Providing a venue for counselling eg: Bereavement counselling via an organisation such as CRUSE.
- Youth provision.
- An idiots guide to cross-compliance and on-farm paperwork.
- Dental practice.
- Grow support if offers to local groups/businesses in the community by increasing/building up some small charges for services.
- More training & leisure courses.
- Business support.
- Post Office Service.
- Room hire.
- More training courses.
- Discussion groups.
- BREXIT information at a local level.
- Opticians
- More socials.
- Community laundrette.
- More mental health support.
- A helping hands scheme.



Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Ltd (UTASS)

Question 10.

Have you had help from UTASS or agencies working out of UTASS to access new benefits or grants?



Question 12.

Which of the services below do you feel are important?

- 234 ♣ Advice & guidance for farmers with legislation & paperwork.
- 207 ♣ Support for older people.
- 206 ♣ Training.
- 195 ♣ Activities for young people.
- 178 ♣ Community events.
- 168 ♣ Providing outreach services, such as CAB, Chiropodist, Carers.
- 152 ♣ Community transport.
- 78 ♣ Credit Union.

Question 13.

Going forward - do you feel you will need support/assistance from UTASS more than before?

