



# **UTASS Annual Report 2018**





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# **Patrons, Honorary Officers & Management Committee Trustees:**

## **Patrons**

12<sup>th</sup> Lord Barnard DL

The Reverend Rachel Benson DL

Professor Dr Patrick Lavery

Sir Paul Nicholson

Lady Nicholson

19<sup>th</sup> Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne

The Rt Revd Paul Butler - Bishop of Durham

## **Voluntary Management Committee Trustees/Board**

**Louise Dalton** (Honorary Secretary)

**Kay Hutchinson**

**Dr Chris Markwick** (appointed 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018)

**Richard Ian Matthews** (Honorary Chair)

**Michael Bernard McGarry** (appointed 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018)

**Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmoore**

**Roy Oxby**

**David Robyn Peat** (Honorary Vice-Chair)

**Lynn Amanda Simpson**

**Carl Stephenson \***

**Ian Tallentire \***

**Sally Ann Teward** (resigned 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018)

**Rachel Watson** (resigned 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018)

## **UTASS Core & Project Staff**

<b>Ann Bell</b>	Office Systems, Monitoring & Administration Support Worker
<b>Richard Betton</b>	Local Farmers' Liaison Worker
<b>Theo Clapp</b>	Sessional Youth Worker
<b>Robert Danby *</b>	Project Manager (HR & Finance), & Company Secretary (from 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018)
<b>Sheena Danby</b>	Domestic Support Worker (Temporary from June)
<b>Charlotte Fletcher</b>	Administration Support Worker
<b>Eve Galloway</b>	Sessional Youth Worker
<b>Alison Greaves</b>	Administration Support Worker
<b>Zelda Heney</b>	Sessional Youth Worker
<b>Gina Richardson</b>	Sessional Youth Worker
<b>Andrew Robinson</b>	Sessional Youth Worker
<b>Anne Scott</b>	Administration Support Worker (Finance)
<b>Jennifer Smurthwaite</b>	Domestic Support Worker (also CREE and Sessional Children & Young People's Support Worker)
<b>Diane Spark *</b>	Project Manager (Funding and Development), & Company Secretary DDECIC and UTASS to 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018
<b>Emma Spry</b>	Administration Support Worker (Website & Social Media)
<b>Julia Stephenson</b>	Training Co-ordinator & Administration Support Worker
<b>Tessa Wigham</b>	Agricultural Secretary

\*Denotes also DDECIC Director

## **Other Associated Staff**

**Alison Walker** - Advice Worker employed by Citizens Advice County Durham and funded by UTASS.

# Chairperson's Report 2018

2018 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of UTASS, something for which we can all feel very proud. During that time, UTASS has grown and gone from strength to strength. We need to make sure that the next 25 years will be as productive and purposeful as we face up to new challenges.

For a charity like UTASS, raising funds is always a priority. In June we waited with bated breath to hear whether our application to The Big Lottery had been successful, particularly as this funding source has over the last few years provided a sizable proportion of our core costs. We were very grateful to have been awarded some funding again, although this time it will be for four years, rather than the five we had hoped for, and it will be tapered downwards over this period. We have also been told that this will be our last grant from this source. The amount received from The Big Lottery includes money to investigate sustainable funding for the future. UTASS has engaged the services of Rose Regeneration, who have been closely involved with us in the past, to help us explore this possibility.



To mark our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we were jointly invited to host a celebratory event in September for the Prince of Wales at Kirkharle Hall in Northumberland. Representatives from UTASS staff and membership travelled up to Kirkharle and were honoured to meet the Prince who took time to talk to us all and cut an anniversary cake, beautifully made and iced by Emma Spry.

Another occasion to mark our Anniversary took place at Raby Castle in November, by kind permission of our patron Lord Barnard. This enjoyable evening was organised in partnership with the County Durham Community Foundation. Potential sponsors were invited on tours of the Castle, and these were followed by a series of mini-interviews led by Caroline Theobald with

UTASS members. These gave an insightful and personal angle on the range of services and support that UTASS provides.

Closer to home, a very successful social evening with a hog roast was held at the Mart in August. The event was attended by 250 UTASS members and their families and was judged a great success, so much so that it is hoped that it can become an annual event.

We were very grateful to have been chosen as one of the recipients for the money raised by this year's Durham Shopping Extravaganza in October which raised a very generous £8,400 towards the work of UTASS.

The Christmas Fair, held in November at the Mart, was particularly well attended, with a wonderful range of varied stalls. Many people took advantage of the chance to stock up on Christmas presents, as well as enjoy refreshments provided by the Middleton scout troop.

Heartfelt thanks go to Mike Bettison who provided the entertainment following the AGM in June and had us all singing along to some well-known songs from 25 years ago, that took us on a trip down memory lane.



Jack and the Beans Talk performance in October.

As ever, UTASS continues to provide services to the wider community, continuing with its provision of Post Office services, food bank facilities and providing a venue for occasions as diverse as Pilates sessions and meetings on local policing. On a theatrical note, we were the venue for two events in the Rural

Highlights programme- 'Jack and the Beans Talk' and 'Our Frances', both of which were well received. The theatre group also organised a sell-out visit to see 'Jersey Boys' in March and 'Miss Saigon' in October at Sunderland Empire Theatre.



In September we had stands at Wolsingham and Eggleston shows, which gave us the opportunity to meet members new and prospective.



Youth work continues to be a core part of UTASS services and, as part of the re-evaluation for the Investing in Children Award, we were told that

"UTASS is an outstanding example of how youth provision should be delivered." We were delighted to receive the award again. Other activities for younger members have included a visit to Grassholme reservoir in June, to go sailing thanks to Teesdale Sailing Club and some very popular evening sessions with



Professor Sarah Elton from Durham University investigating amongst other things the delights of bones and skeletons.



On the staffing front we were sad to say goodbye to our longstanding Chairperson Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmoore, who retired from Middleton



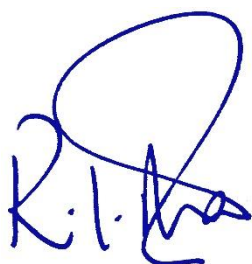
Surgery to move to more southerly pastures. Luckily he remains on the board of Trustees. Bob Danby moved from his position as Trustee and Treasurer to become part of the permanent staff as part time Joint Project Manager, combining his skills with those of Diane who has worked so tirelessly and effectively in this role for many years.

Lucy Jenkins left her position as Project Officer to take up a role as Visual Arts Manager with Durham County Council.

The youth team welcomed three new members of staff, Zelda Heney, Andy Robinson and Eve Galloway, each bringing different skills and experience and enhancing the provision to young people.

Changes in the Trustees saw Sally Ann Teward stand down as a Trustee after 17 years, and Michael McGarry and Dr Chris Markwick join the board of Trustees. We are very grateful to them all.

As always, UTASS is the sum of its parts, and I want wholeheartedly to thank all those who are involved in making UTASS the enviable organisation that it is. Patrons, Staff, Trustees, Volunteers, Members and Supporters: huge recognition and appreciation is due to you for all your continued hard work. Here's to the next 25 years!



Richard Matthews  
UTASS Chair

# Project Manager's Report

*On behalf of our dedicated, caring and hardworking Staff, Trustees, Volunteers and Patrons we are again delighted to report on work we have been involved in for public benefit throughout 2018, 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.
- 4 x 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.
- Theatre Group organising trips to local theatre presentations.
- Topical presentations & awareness raising events
- 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 County Durham, Alzheimer's Society and Durham County Carers.
- Provision of facilities for Pilates and yoga sessions, chiropody 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 for the first part of the year, cessation of funding prevented their continuance.
- Teesdale Heritage Group and Wear & Tees Farm Watch operated under the umbrella of UTASS.
- Provision of Post Office Services twice a week.
- UTASS took over the Oil Buying Group in February and it has grown from 130 to over 280 members who benefit around 2.5p per litre discount.
- Book exchange.
- Host Police “Drop-in” surgeries.

In 2019 we hope to develop the following

- Social outings for ladies to complement the well-established Retired Farmers Lunches.
- Closer ties with other community groups in the village and explore how we can work together.
- Work in partnership to develop a dementia friendly village.
- Re-introduce the Music and Memories Sessions.

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

## **Basic Payment Scheme work**

After the 2017 experience, members were asked to make an appointment in advance of the application process to check the accuracy of the information held online by the RPA, particularly field data. This did throw up a number of anomalies from incorrect boundaries to missing “land parcels”, but it did give us the time to submit RLE1 forms and maps showing the correct information. This enabled the RPA to update their information ready for when the application window opened. As a result, the application period passed relatively smoothly with a much reduced need to complete RLE1 forms with annotated maps and fill “continuation booklets” in the run up to the deadline for submissions.

Paper forms were available if necessary, and the drop in centre at Carlisle was used to deliver forms and obtain receipts once again.



During the summer the RPA has made significant progress in processing the innumerable BPS Query forms that UTASS has submitted on behalf of its members over the last three years. Invariably this has led to the cancellation of penalties and additional payments to our members (by BACS straight into their bank accounts so we have little knowledge of the total amount). One of the payments, covering several years of under payment and penalties, has totalled over £60,000.

The RPA has also implemented the findings of the Minchinhampton Judicial Review in relation to the calculation methods used by the RPA to apportion BPS payments for claims including common and shared grazing. This has resulted in the award of additional entitlements and payments to our members. UTASS has been notified of over £136,000 received by our members so far.

**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 attended a meeting with Natural England and Moorland Association re a voluntary suspension of rotational burning on blanket bog for all the HLS agreements that are held. This is a temporary fix to avoid EU infraction proceedings until new 25 year Moorland Management Plans can be put in place.

**UTASS Membership** At the end of 2017 our member household mailing list stood at **482** addresses which is an increase of **12** households from last year. This membership consists of **416** farms and **66** other households/agencies/organisations - totalling **1446 members**. On average we received a new membership application every month.

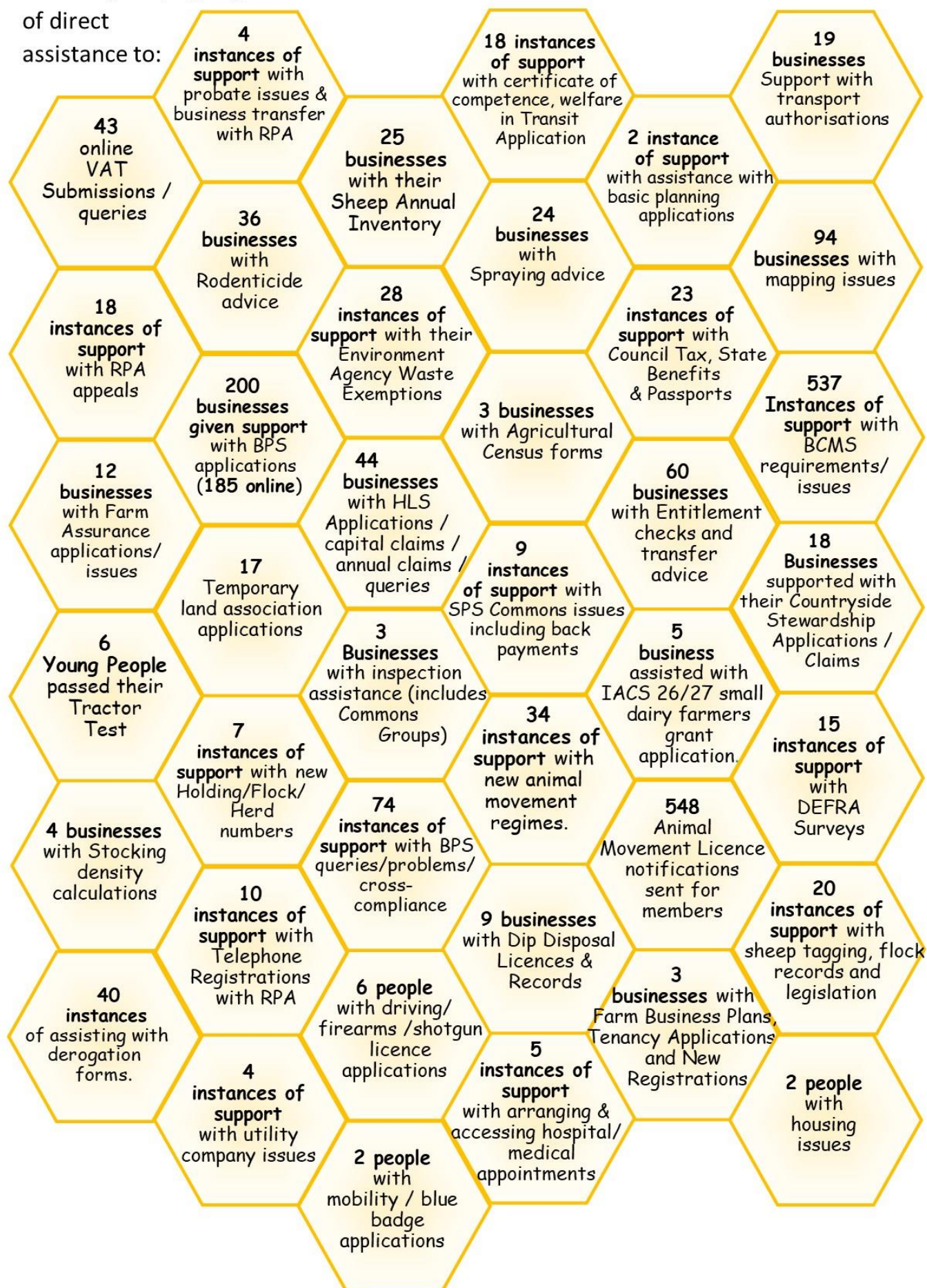
## Contact Monitoring Data

**25465** contacts (27239 in 2017) resulting in **27,328** presenting issues (29133 in 2017).

Again in 2018 the most popular support area was administration support, including assistance with form filling, faxing, emails, photocopying etc. **20295** instances reducing from 22170 in 2017.

# 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 **200** farm businesses (**7 more** than in 2017) and the average basic payment of **£18,525.00** equates to approximately **£3,705,000.00**
- Direct assistance with BPS forms given to **207** farm businesses. Assume an average Basic Payment of **£18,525.00**. Assume 20% 'minor' mistakes with 10% penalties equates to **£74,100.00** 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 receiving penalties equates to over **£38,532.00**.
- 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 £10,000.00 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 **£471,432.00**.

Using the Social Return on Investment Model (SROI) - independent evaluations of the impact of the work of UTASS, undertaken by Rose Regeneration in 201 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**.



## **UTASS Calendars and Cards**

Together with the 2019 UTASS Calendar and Christmas Cards, this year, at the suggestion of a member, we introduced a general purpose card.

A big thank you, both to all who donated the photographs for the cards and Calendars free of charge, and also to all of the kind sponsors who generously covered the production costs.

This meant that every penny made helped to fund the work of UTASS

## **Briefings**

A continuing 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. Again in 2018, 5 briefings were produced, covering a wide range of topics including Brexit, Annual Sheep & Goat Inventory, BPS, Hedgerow and Boundaries Grant Scheme Countryside /Environmental Stewardship, Countryside Productivity Small Grants, Postal Fraud, Government Consultations, Making Tax Digital.

## **Those who worked in partnership with us included**

- Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
- Castle Vets
- Commons Foundation
- Country Landowners Association
- DEFRA
- Durham Constabulary
- Durham County Council (Digital Durham)
- Environment Agency
- Farming Community Network (FCN)
- Galloway Cattle Society
- Harrison & Hetherington
- Highlights (Rural Touring Scheme)
- Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators (IAgSA)
- John Warren ABP
- Langdon Beck, High Force, Eggleston and Wolsingham Show Committees

- McGarry & Co Solicitors
- Middleton-in-Teesdale and Barnard Castle Farmers Auction Marts
- Middleton-in-Teesdale and Newbiggin Parish Council
- Middleto -in-Teesdale Co-op
- Middleton in Bloom
- National Farmers Union (NFU)
- Natural England
- Northumberland Rivers Trust
- North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership
- Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership
- Durham County Council
- Old Forge Surgery
- Raby and Strathmore Estates
- Rare Breeds Survival Trust
- 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
- Yorkshire Agricultural Society
- Yorkshire Rural Support Network
- Yorkshire Dales National Park
- Youngs Chartered Surveyors and Property Consultants: Charles Raine

## Training undertaken by UTASS Staff included

<b><u>Training</u></b>	<b><u>Staff Members</u></b>
<b>GDPR Basics</b>	Bob Danby
<b>ACAS Human Resources</b>	Bob Danby
<b>Chartered Institute Managers Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership (continuing 2019)</b>	Bob Danby
<b>Financial Governance (Bowburn)</b>	Bob Danby & Diane Spark
<b>Emergency First Aid at Work</b>	Ann Bell
<b>Turn 2 Us</b>	Anne Scott, Emma Spry, Tessa Wigham, Alison Greaves, Julia Stephenson
<b>Microsoft 365</b>	Anne Scott, Emma Spry, Ann Bell, Bob Danby, Alison Greaves, Charlotte Fletcher, Diane Spark, Julia Stephenson
<b>BPS</b>	Richard Betton
<b>Mastering Medicines Workshop</b>	Tessa Wigham

## Training Provided

Responding to requests from community members we organised relevant training courses, delivered them locally and sought funding on behalf of trainees wherever possible, whilst relying on minimum numbers to run. This year the demand for Shearing training was such that 4 days of shearing training was held, with television cameras filming for the Yorkshire Vet programme on one of the days. Thanks to Warrens Group for help with funding this training. Please see details of all training delivered at Appendix 1 on page 30.

Funding for young people's driver training provided opportunities for Lantra 13-15 Tractor Driving, Pre Test Tractor Driving, Quad Bike, Car Lessons & Trailer lessons, with thanks to the Wellesley Trust Fund at The Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland and to The Hedley Foundation. Comments from trainees have been very positive "The best day so far this year." (after completing Lantra tractor driving). Regarding trailer training "I am very pleased with the outcome! Thank you for



allowing me this funding so I could do this.” “That’s brilliant thanks so much for your help.”

“Thank you for this bursary it’s really helped me 😊”

Two years of part funding for trainees provided by Weardale Action Partnership came to an end. Our second application was successful with the first training, NPTC Rough Terrain Telescopic, being held in November, with a wider range of courses available. We have also been able to deliver two Emergency First Aid courses, an 8 week “Creating Resilience & Emotional Wellness” course with Mind and have just started CMI Management Training which will run for a year, with training days once a month.#

We were delighted to be chosen in 2017 as a partner for the delivery for the Prince’s Farm Resilience Programme. 15 farm businesses benefited from the workshops which ran throughout 2018. HRH The Prince of Wales met with some of those from the programme.



## Community Newsletters

Again in 2018, 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 continues to be maintained to offer electronic versions of the Newsletter.

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

- Planning Inquiry (expert witness).
- Natural England Agent’s Briefings x3
- APHA bTB liaison group
- Board member Tees Swale project
- Mental Wellbeing conference at Pavilions Harrogate (chair)
- Attended “Farmers Market” in the House of Commons

- Attended Natural Flood Risk Management conference
- Speaker at Labour Party Future of farming event with Sue Hayman shadow Defra minister.
- Conducted farm walk for North Pennine Smallholders Association
- Speaker at South Tyne Farmers Group.
- Succession planning with Charles Raine of Young's.
- Defra consultation on developing a Domestic Agricultural Policy
- Defra consultation on Livestock ID
- Board Member Teesdale Area Action Partnership
- 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 (Chair), Upland Group and conference
- One meeting with Paul Caldwell RPA CEO
- Bovine TB
- National Brexit Forum
- 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 charring of Farmers Panel and results based pilot
- AONB partnership and North Peninne Chain Local Nature Partnership
- Member of RPA and Natural England Independent Appeals Panels (Public appointment)
- Evidence given to the Work & Pensions Select Committee on Universal Credit with special regard to the self-employed and farmers.
- 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  
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  
Middleton-in-Teesdale Carnival Committee  
Upper Teesdale Botany Group  
Investing in Children  
Middleton Mums Play Area Working Group

### Barbour

Throughout the year Barbour kindly donated a wide variety of garments including waxed jackets, jumpers and footwear for re-distribution to UTASS service users and volunteers. Even Santa benefitted from some new footwear to help him deliver his presents to children at a local nursery school.

### Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

In October UTASS hosted a production of “Our Frances”, by Canada’s Theatre Newfoundland Labrador. 28 people enjoyed the story celebrating the life and heroism of Frances Cluett a World War 1 nurse.

In November the Garlic Theatre presented “Jack and the Beans Talk” a charming and inventive children’s puppet show based on a popular children tale. The 15 children and accompanying adults thoroughly enjoyed the show and had the added bonus of being able to meet to puppets in the show in person after the event.

More shows are planned in 2019 including “Where There’s Muck There’s Bra’s” which by the time you read this will already have taken place.





## Music & Memories

Bad weather was a problem at the start of 2018 and forced the cancellation of the January and February sessions. Five sessions were held between March and June as usual featuring our friends Mike and Graham with their ukuleles.



As usual participants including residents from Manor House Care Home, transported to UTASS by volunteers using the UTASS Minibuses, enjoyed singing along to a range of memorable old songs.

There were 37 attendances across the 5 sessions.

Much to our dismay, we were unable to find funding to continue the sessions and they were discontinued after June

We're pleased to report that we have just received news that we have obtained funding to restart the sessions in 2019

## Monthly Farmers Social/Lunch Sessions

The very popular lunches have continued to take place at Middleton-in-Teesdale Farmers Auction Mart and Barnard Castle Farmers Auction Mart and St John's Chapel Town Hall on a monthly basis. Below is a photograph

	Barnard Castle	Middleton-in-Teesdale	St Johns Chapel
Attendees	20	18	24
Attendances	185	167	169
Sessions	12	12	12
Average Attendance per Session	15	14	14



Dick Dalton, who attends the St Johns Chapel Monthly Farmers Lunch, meeting with HRH The Prince of Wales at Kirkharle, Northumberland.

## Agricultural Shows

UTASS again were pleased to be able to support Middleton-in-Teesdale Spring Show (High Force Show), Langdon Beck and Eggleston Show Committees with administration. Richard Betton was the Licence Holder and Bio-Security Officer for both the High Force and Langdon Beck Shows. We had information stands at Wolsingham and Eggleston Shows and additionally this year, Hamsterley Hopping's.

## ICT Support

The community computer in UTASS continues to be well used, the uses include job searches, visitors to the area checking emails, and research into various topics

Our projector and screen was again used by various groups for wider community benefit.

## UTASS Rural Watch “What’s App” Group

After some widespread identity theft in the early part of the year, UTASS set up a “What’s App” group intended to act as an early warning system. Though not a means to report crime, Barnard Castle Police are part of the group and benefit from the information contained there and also use the group to pass on information regarding arrests made etc. The group now has over 100 members.



## Computerised Farm Records and Agricultural Secretarial Work

Farm records continued to be maintained on behalf of a number of businesses in the Teesdale area including two new farms. The requirements for recording sheep movements changed at the start of 2018 and greater detail required for the movement of animals required. Temporary Land Association and Temporary Holding number applications made in 2017 required renewing.

Hedgerows & Boundaries Countryside Stewardship Grants were popular with our members as the upper limit was doubled to £10,000.00 and many applications were successfully applied for as well as grants for livestock handling facilities.

Emma Spry and Charlotte Fletcher completed their training with the Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators (IAgSA) in 2017 and initially shadowed Richard and Tessa with BPS, mapping and general grant/scheme agreement work. As their confidence grew they began to assist with the less complex under the guidance of Tessa and Richard.



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

Lamb Bank, Skills & Services and Sales & Wants schemes continued to operate, however the need wasn't as apparent as it had been in previous years.

## Presentations & Awareness Raising Events/Activities Included:

- Upper Teesdale Broadband
- Succession Planning & Brexit
- 2 x Police and Community - meeting
- UTASS presentation to local Labour Party
- Presentation the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat
- Wolsingham Show – information stand
- Eggleston Show – information stand
- Hamsterley Hoppings – information Stand

## UTASS Minibuses

Our community minibuses were used in 2018 by **25** local organisations on a not for profit basis. User groups included Middleton-in-Teesdale Primary School, Old Forge Surgery, Cardiff Ramblers, St Mary's Parish Church Barnard Castle, Middleton-in-Teesdale Christmas Lights, and the AONB.

The buses were used to transport people attending the music & memories sessions from local care homes.

They are regularly used to bring Young People from the isolated Upper Dale to socialise with their friends at the weekly Drop-In session. On **6** occasions they were used to transport Young People to offsite activities, such as sailing, paint balling and indoor climbing.

In 2018 we took a number of farmers attending one of our CREE lunch sessions to the Weardale Museum in Ireshopeburn. In 2019 we would like to pursue this concept with visits to other attractions. We also hope to commence similar visits for ladies.

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

"My grateful thanks to Tess, Richard and all The Team for their loving kindness over the years & help, don't know what we would have done without you."

**"Non-judgemental whatever is going on in your life."**

**"All embracing."**

**"Your advice & knowledge was appreciated when we were afraid to approach others for help for fear of seeming ignorant."**

"Good to talk to & fill forms in at short notice."

**"Pleasant & helpful, offer so much to young & old — A valuable asset!"**

"Very friendly & approachable, and eager to help."

"What was once a headache to go to Northallerton MAFF is now a pleasure, so handy & very helpful staff."

**"UTASS is the most friendly & useful place locally."**

"People that talk the same language!"

**"Unbiased opinion of various services available."**

"Relaxed atmosphere, friendly faces."

"It's staffed by REAL people."

**"Encourages people to get together & do things."**

"Supporting essential services e.g. Post Office, oil ordering."

**"Local staff lovely to talk to & easy to approach."**

**"Informative Newsletter is excellent!"**

"Friendly, willing listeners."

"Heart of the community."

**"A centre of excellence."**

"Handy Location!"

# 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 **13th** year running. The assessor concluded:

**“UTASS is an outstanding example of how youth provision should be delivered and as always it is a pleasure to visit to meet with the young people and staff from the project to hear about the positive contribution young people make to the service.”**

We worked with Investing in Children on various topics, Time to talk and taking part in their Questionnaire's.

A total of **115** Young People (**51 female and 64 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 **40** Young People aged 8 – 12 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.

We were very grateful to receive funding from Teesdale Action Partnership for youth workers for the 13 – 19 age group, and The Mental Health Local Care Concordat provided funding to convert a storage space into a room for use primarily by older young people. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2018 we were able to resume with an open night in their new room with 22 young people attending.

## 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, 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



### **School holiday and offsite activities included**

- Mixed crafts
- Paint Balling
- Barbeque
- Trampolining
- Bowling
- 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
- Kyle Swankie Sports Coach
- Profesor Sarah Elton (Durham University) Various Topics
- Jordan Galloway - Sports advising sessions.
- Olivia Galloway - Dance workshops with the Monday Night Girls Group.



## A selection of some of the comments made about the Drop-in and Youth Club in 2017

"I come to the Youth Club to see my friends and join in with activities."

"Play with Friends!"

"We have a warm room to chill out with friends."

"I am warm and have good crack with the Youth Workers, keeps me off the street."

"I have fun, There is lotas to do and I get to see me friends outside of school."

"Enjoy learning new skills."

"We get to decide where we want to go on a trip."

**"Gain information from people. Learn about Mental Health awareness by doing activites "**



## **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 2018 four Directors, Bob Danby, Diane Spark, Carl Stephenson and Ian Tallentire, have overseen the Community Interest Company with significant help from staff and volunteers at UTASS.

DDECIC entered year 5 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. Meetings between DDECIC and the Mart to explore management options beyond August 2019 have taken place and will continue in 2019.

### **DDECIC activities in 2018 included**

- Management of 5 business units Yan, Tyan, Tethera & Methera at the Auction Mart and Pip at UTASS.
- Promotion of tenants/businesses occupying units.
- Organisation of fundraising events including the Christmas Fair at Middleton Mart.
- Assistance with the community event held in August at Middleton-in-Teesdale Farmers Auction Mart to acknowledge 25 years of the work of UTASS.

### **Tenants in Business Units at the end of 2018**

- Yan – Fallbright Consulting
- Tyan – Simmi Performance
- Tethera – Farm Pet & Equine
- Methera – Simmi Performance
- Pip – Artist Steve Messam

### **Plans/priorities for 2019**

- To continue supporting and promoting the tenants in the business units.
- To further explore the acquisition of premises and facilities to assist with small business development in and around Middleton-in-Teesdale.
- To co-ordinate and/or support appropriate community activities.

# Outreach Facilities and Services

## **Citizens Advice County Durham**

The weather posed a bit of a challenge in the earlier part of 2018 but the sessions ran wherever possible on their fortnightly basis. This year, we saw a steady stream of clients, and helped them with issues including employment, consumer, relationships and benefit queries. For 3 of the clients who had benefit enquires, we identified an income gain of approximately £14000 between them.

The feedback is again positive about having this local service so people can access advice without having to travel to one of the main offices

**Teesdale Physiotherapy** Pilates sessions on Wednesdays (am).

**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

**Alzheimer's Society** Faith Walkwell came in Oct/Nov.

**June Wainwright** Yoga on Tuesdays.

**Post Office** Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons.

## **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-in-Teesdale School
- High Nature Value Farmer's Panel
- Upper Teesdale Churches Together
- Farmwatch
- Middleton Christmas Lights Group
- The Cameron Relief in Sickness Fund
- Citizens Advice Bureau, Energy Saving Surgeries
- Durham Constabulary Drop In
- Sweet Tooth
- Cotherstone Village Show

- Scottish Agricultural College
- Durham County Council
- Upper Teesdale Botany Group
- Montalbo Primary School
- Newbiggin W.I.
- Romaldkirk W.I.
- Middleton-in-Teesdale Carnival Committee
- Teesdale Gun Club
- Darlington Mind
- The Walking Group
- Middleton Mums Play Area Working Group

## Funders, Assisters & Advisors

Please see APPENDIX 2, page 31. It should be noted that the freely given donations we received from Patrons, Trustees, Staff, Members, Volunteers and Supporters 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 **£155,800** (a further **increase** of almost 14% on 2017) was **given by our many valued Volunteers**. This tremendous goodwill once again significantly eased the workload. This brings the total value of volunteer time to £1,325,048!

## 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

**ACAS**

**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 Chair**

**Date**.....01/03/2019.....

## **APPENDIX 1 - Training 2018**

DATE	TRAINING SESSION OFFERED	ATTENDEES PER DAY
10.2.18	Lantra 13-15 Tractor Driving	2
24.2.18	Lantra 13-15 Tractor Driving	2
13.3.18	Digital Durham Session	6 x 1 hr
8.5.18	Emergency First Aid	2
21.5.18	Safe Use of Pesticides – PA1 Theory	4
23.5.18	Safe Use of Pesticides – PA6 Knapsack	3
24.5.18	Safe Use of Pesticides – PA2 Mounted	6
31.5.18	Lantra 13-15 Tractor Driving	2
1.6.18	Lantra 13-15 Tractor Driving	2
14.6.18	Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	7
25.6.18	British Wool Shearing	7
26.6.18	British Wool Shearing	7
27.6.18	British Wool Shearing	8
28.6.18	British Wool Shearing	8
27.6.18	Microsoft Office 365	9 x 0.5 days
24.7.18	Lantra 13-15 Tractor Driving	2
23.8.18	Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid	10
24.8.18	Creating Resilience & Emotional Wellness	4 X 0.5 x 8 weeks
24.9.18	Turn2Us Grant finder & Benefits Calculator	9 x 0.5 days
6.11.18	Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid (Woodland VH)	10
7.11.18	NPTC Certificate of Competence for Transport of Livestock	5 x 1 hr
22.11.18	Barclays Digital	3 x 1 hr
28.11.18	NPTC Rough Terrain Telescopic Handler	3
29.11.18	NPTC Rough Terrain Telescopic Handler	3
6.12.18	Level 5 Diploma in Management Training (monthly for 1 year)	7
<i>Various to 31.12.18</i>	<i>Quad Bike Trainees</i>	2
<i>Various to 31.12.18</i>	<i>Trailer Test Trainees</i>	<i>10 x 2.5 days</i>
<i>Various to 31.12.18</i>	<i>Pre Test Tractor</i>	<i>3 x 0.25 days</i>
<i>Various to 31.12.18</i>	<i>Car Driving Lessons</i>	<i>5 x 2.5 days</i>

Thanks to all our funders for the training courses during 2018: The Wellesley Trust Fund at The Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, Teesdale Action Partnership, Weardale Action Partnership, Warrens Group.

Thanks too to all trainers for helping trainees, especially young people, to achieve their goals.

Grateful thanks too, go 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 (including income and expenditure account)

Year Ended 31 December 2018

	Unrestricted funds £	2018 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2017 Total funds £
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	60,718	154,988	215,706	178,235
Charitable activities	28,777	48,379	77,156	40,544
Investment income	1,729	–	1,729	1,555
Other income	–	–	–	10,129
<b>Total income</b>	<u>91,224</u>	<u>203,367</u>	<u>294,591</u>	<u>230,463</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Expenditure on charitable activities	87,942	183,946	271,888	262,261
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>87,942</u>	<u>183,946</u>	<u>271,888</u>	<u>262,261</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<u>3,282</u>	<u>19,421</u>	<u>22,703</u>	<u>(31,798)</u>
Transfers between funds	21,225	(21,225)	–	–
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>				
Investment gains/(losses)	(3,384)	–	(3,384)	2,055
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	21,123	(1,804)	19,319	(29,743)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward	147,387	58,134	205,521	235,264
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>168,510</u>	<u>56,330</u>	<u>224,840</u>	<u>205,521</u>

# Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited

## Statement of Financial Position

31 December 2018

	Note	2018 £	2017 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets		59,037	64,376
Investments		<u>18,480</u>	<u>21,864</u>
		77,517	86,240
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors		6,507	10,640
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>165,384</u>	<u>127,975</u>
		171,891	138,615
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		<u>24,568</u>	<u>19,334</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		147,323	119,281
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		<u>224,840</u>	<u>205,521</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>224,840</u>	<u>205,521</u>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>			
Restricted funds		56,330	58,134
Unrestricted funds		<u>168,510</u>	<u>147,387</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>224,840</u>	<u>205,521</u>

# Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited

## Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 December 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
<b>Income and endowments</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
General donations	12,532	23,142
Friends Of UTASS	5,425	5,033
Hamsterley Hoppings	300	—
Sponsorship	4,570	3,750
HMRC Gift aid	3,521	7,335
Joan Drewe legacy	24,000	—
Big Lottery Fund	79,522	106,252
Durham County Council	1,000	3,238
Sherburn House via CDCF	—	3,500
Ballinger Trust	15,000	—
DDECIC	—	8,785
Dept. of Health - Places of Safety grant	13,900	—
R & H Woods Charitable Trust	1,000	1,200
Prince's Countryside Fund	50,813	—
Ingenious Darlington - Latimer Hinks	500	—
Cllr Bell & Henderson Neighbourhood Fund	1,430	—
Joseph Strong Frazer Trust	2,000	1,000
Stephen Mitchell Memorial Fund	193	—
Garfield Weston	—	15,000
	<u>215,706</u>	<u>178,235</u>
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Work with older people	—	641
Cree project and retired farmers' lunches	11,600	6,123
Youth work	26,358	7,499
Minibus income	2,505	4,878
Rural training programme	10,000	8,224
Business and admin support	26,693	13,179
	<u>77,156</u>	<u>40,544</u>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Income from listed investments	1,252	1,172
Bank interest receivable	477	383
	<u>1,729</u>	<u>1,555</u>
<b>Other income</b>		
Insurance claim	—	10,129
	<u>—</u>	<u>10,129</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<u>294,591</u>	<u>230,463</u>

# Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited

## Detailed Statement of Financial Activities *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>		
Wages	160,457	144,236
Employer's NIC	4,567	4,492
Pension costs	9,304	8,127
Rent	14,500	14,500
Light, heat and water	7,031	5,014
Repairs, renewals and maintenance	3,308	1,358
Licences and insurance	2,778	2,680
Legal and professional fees	4,614	2,172
Telephone and office costs	16,731	16,426
Depreciation	20,186	18,976
Sundry costs	331	472
Training, seminars and other project costs	22,181	22,604
Minibus costs	4,434	6,043
Staff travel and training	1,466	5,032
Insurance claim	—	10,129
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>271,888</b>	<b>262,261</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>22,703</b>	<b>(31,798)</b>



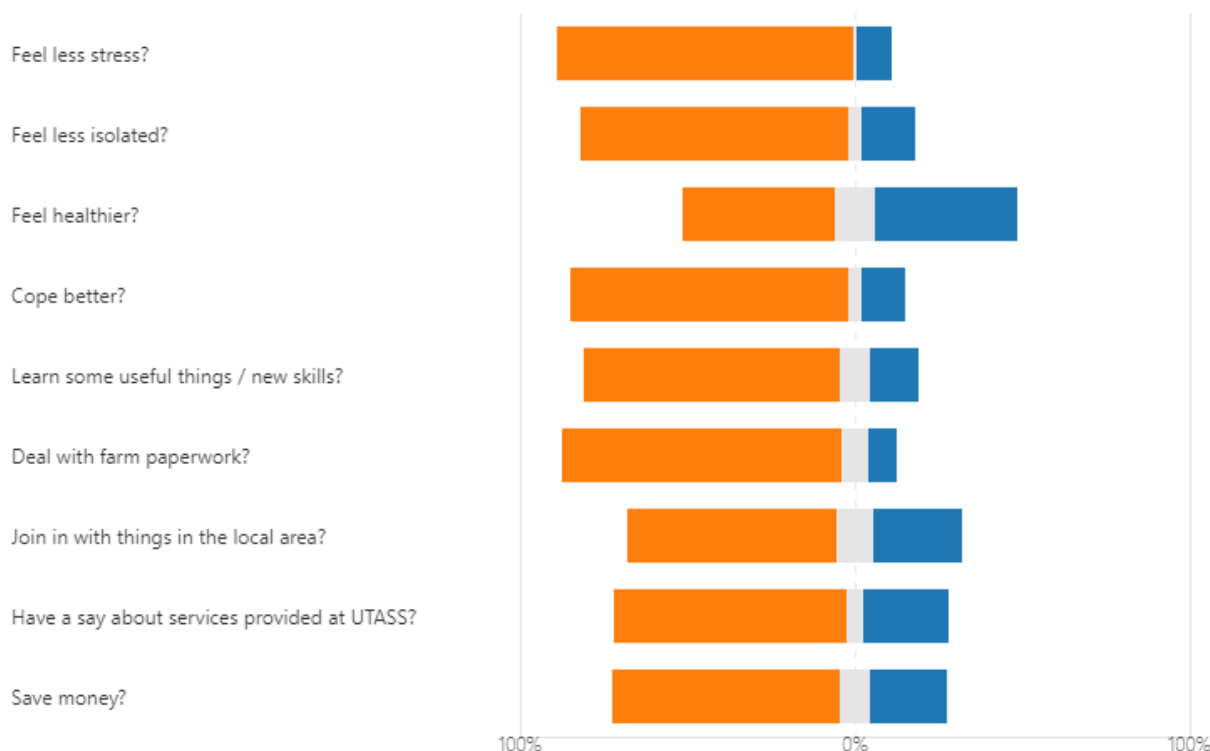
## APPENDIX 3 – Members Users Survey Findings

There were 155 responses:

1. Thinking about yourself or anyone else in your household; Over the last year (2018) would you say that the services, assistance or opportunities offered through UTASS has helped people to:

[More Details](#)

Yes No Don't Know



2. How often do you, or anyone else in your household, use UTASS?

[More Details](#)

More than once a week	1
Once a Week	15
Once a Month	43
Four times a year	56
Once a year	40



3. If UTASS wasn't here, where else would you get this support from? Please list relevant organisations

[More Details](#)

41

Responses

Latest Responses

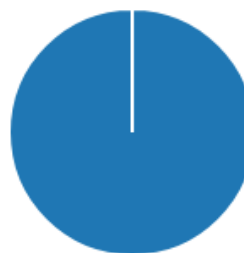
"Durham cafe e.g. fire alarms front door bell system better telephone ...

"NFU "

4. If UTASS wasn't here, where else would you get this support from? If you can't think where you'd get the help from please select the option below.

[More Details](#)

● I don't know where I'd get the... 116



9. How many stars would you give your access to broadband?

[More Details](#)

129

Responses



2.95 Average Rating

10. Please feel free to comment on your access to broadband

[More Details](#)

55

Responses

Latest Responses

"My broadband is very poor "

11. Are you confident with IT skills?

[More Details](#)

● Yes 76  
● No 78



12. Do you have access to a computer?

[More Details](#)

● Yes 135  
● No 19



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

[More Details](#)

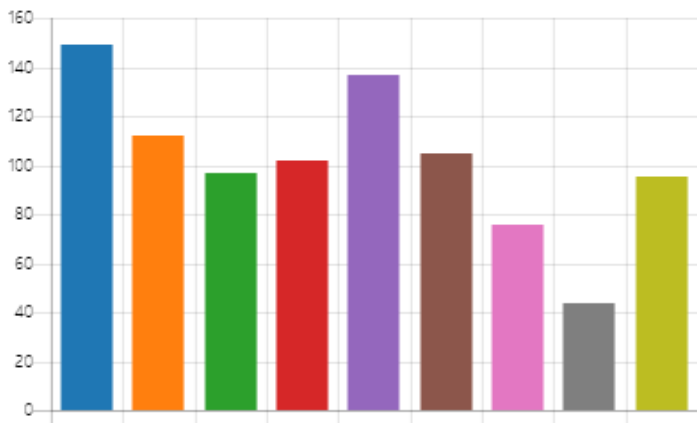
● Yes 69  
● No 83



14. Which of the services below do you feel are important?

[More Details](#)

Advice & guidance for farmer...	149
Activities for young people	112
Community events	97
Outreach services, such as Citi...	102
Training	137
Support for older people	105
Minibus	76
Credit Union	44
Post Office	95



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

[More Details](#)

Yes	104
No	5
Not sure	45

