



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Community Champions award winners revealed

A PARTICULARLY, pleasurable occasion for the Parish Council involves recognising the amazing efforts of community-spirited people in the Holme Valley.

The Community Champions Awards are expressly awarded to people who contribute in some special way to making the Valley a great place to live.

This year, our Chairman, Councillor Trevor Bellamy, was delighted to present four separate awards in ceremonies at Holmfirth Civic Hall Council Chambers.

An award was presented to Holmfirth Civic Hall Community Trust for the work they have done in recent years to develop the Civic Hall into an increasingly vibrant, educational and recreational community



asset. The Civic Hall is going from strength to strength, and we were delighted to recognise this.

Secondly, we honoured the nearly three decades of work of Honley Village Community Trust.

The team has overseen numerous, volunteer-led projects to transform both the natural environment and the historical village of Honley and we were pleased to recognise the unceasing commitment of the Committee.

New Mill Post Office received an award for how they dealt with a traumatic event. In May 2019, thieves exploded the cash machine at the Post Office and stole around £20,000.

The shop was virtually destroyed. In the face of this adversity, the team at the Post Office improvised and continued to provide vital services to the village from a temporary shop the next day.

Finally, the Parish Council recognised brother and sister, Ian

Roberts and Sheila Sutton. Many people will know Ian and Sheila from The Nook pub.

They were honoured with a Community Champions Award for their committed leadership of the Holmfirth Food and Drink Festival and their ongoing support of many other important, local festivals like the Festival of Folk.

As we start a new decade, Holme Valley Parish Council would like to say a massive thank you to all the individuals, teams, anonymous volunteers and community groups who help make the Holme Valley a fantastic place to live.

We look forward to celebrating and honouring new Community Champions in the year ahead. Happy New Year, everyone.

New adopted phone box

ONE of the Parish Council's responsibilities is preserving and repurposing traditional, red phone boxes.

The Council has taken on a number of phone boxes in the Holme Valley that have been decommissioned by BT and turned them into new resources for the community.

We have adopted phone boxes in Fulstone, Holme, Netherthong, Oldfield and Upperrthong as book exchanges

and information kiosks.

We are delighted to report that, following a petition from a parishioner, the Council has now adopted the Hepworth village red phone box from BT.

A local interest group including representatives of Hepworth Primary School will be converting the phone box into a community library. We hope that the people of Hepworth will get lots of use from their new resource.

Securing community buildings

ONE element of the Parish Council's work that has become increasingly important in recent years has been preserving community assets.

The Council has, on behalf of the people of the Holme Valley, over recent years taken ownership of Holmfirth Civic Hall and the Holmfirth Public Toilets.

We are currently also working with Friends of Honley Library and Kirklees Council to take on ownership of Honley Library which, like the Civic Hall, will be managed in the future by a community trust.

By doing so, we will assure

the future of these vital services for our Holme Valley communities.

The Council is especially pleased to work with community groups, like Friends of Honley Library, to secure our local assets. Most recently, we have awarded £25,000 to Holmfirth Tech Ltd Community Benefit Society towards purchase of the Tech building, to secure the future of this fantastic, historic, at-risk resource.

The Parish Council has also agreed to fund further modernisation work at Holmfirth Civic Hall.