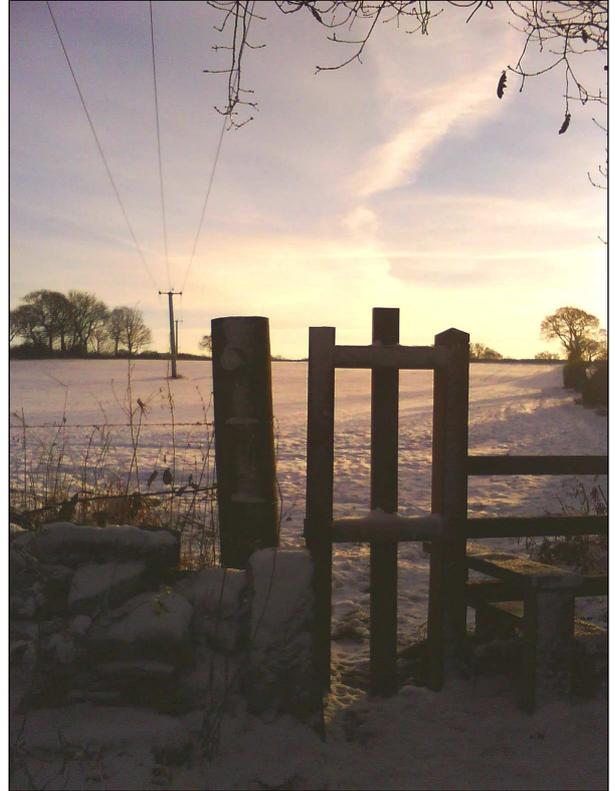




KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2009 – 2010

Features:

- A round-up of the year's activities
- A full list of grants awarded and photographs of many of the projects supported.
- A breakdown of the Council's accounts
- Contact details for all the Parish Councillors



KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Council



Sandra Harling
Administrative Assistant

Meetings:

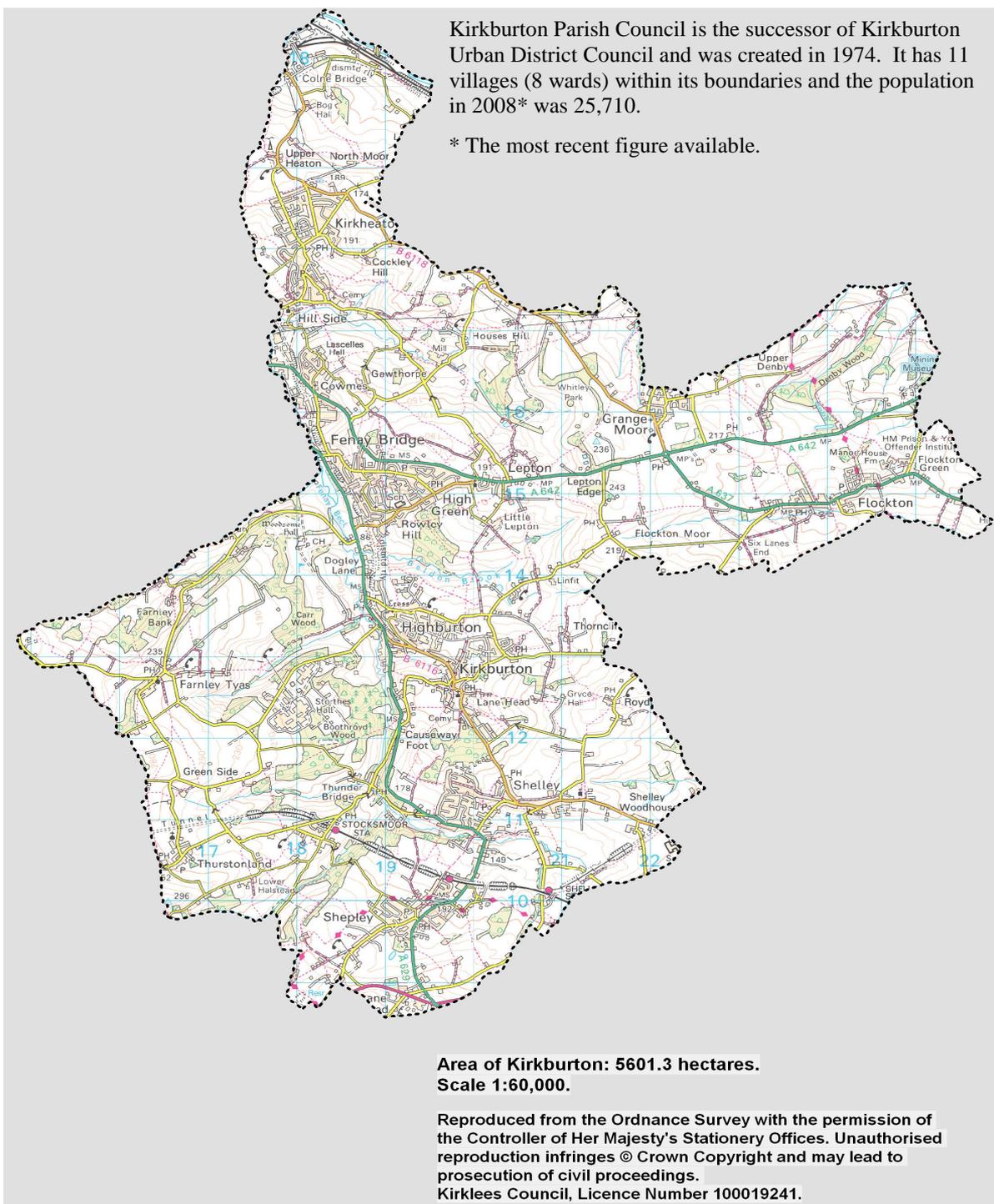
Parish Council meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month, except for May and July (in 2010). Council meetings dealing with planning and general purpose issues are normally held on the third Thursday of each month (except for May, August and sometimes December). Committee meetings are called as and when required. A meeting timetable is posted on the website.

Meetings are usually held at Burton Village Hall at 7.30 pm, with a public participation session at the beginning when members of the public are invited to address the Council. These arrangements are subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting each year.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the Council and Committee meetings, except where it is notified that a particular item of business is exempt under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

I N D E X

Council Contact Details and Meeting Procedures	2
Map of Kirkburton Parish Council area	3
Chairman’s Overview of the Year	4
Summary of Council’s Activities & Decisions	6
Summary of the Accounts	8
Details of the Small Grants	8
Details of Community Project Grants	10
Environment Committee Expenditure & Summary of Projects	10
Contact details of Kirkburton Parish Councillors	12



Chairman's Overview of the Year

The Council has had another rewarding year and I have been very encouraged at the progress the Council has made engaging with residents and responding to their needs and concerns.

The Kirklees Council initiated Governance Review vindicated the role of the Parish Council as it presently stands and the recommendations it suggested are being taken on board and acted on wherever possible. The review agreed to minor boundary changes and we will welcome residents to the West of Thurstonland into the Kirkburton Parish at the next Parish Council elections.

Some of the Summer months were taken up by residents exercising their rights and examining the Council's financial records and minutes. Some questions were raised with the Auditors but the Council has again passed its external audit with a clean sheet. This has resulted in some extra audit costs but the exercise has proved that the Council is working correctly.

As a director of the East Peak Innovation Partnership (EPIP) it has been encouraging to see the Council engaging with this new organisation with both EPIP and the Parish Council working at the grassroots with a bottom-up approach.

One of the most satisfying projects that has been completed this year was the repair of the Kirkheaton Churchyard wall. This long running problem was dealt with last Autumn with a determined push from a number of Councillors. The wall has been completed to a high standard and significantly under budget, which means we have funds left to do other remedial work in the Churchyard which the Council is responsible for. I would like to give personal thanks here to Cllr Mark Sykes who has put in a lot of effort to help make it happen.



The Council has a range of grants available and the uptake this year has exceeded budget allocations. However, by taking a flexible approach and revising its budget, the Council has been able to meet all its requests.

The grant that gives me most satisfaction is the awarding of the Annual Small Grants. I find it amazing the number of small voluntary groups that operate within our Parish area. This year we have supported over 50 small groups and I know from meeting with some of them how much this small grant means to them. This is something most funding bodies don't do and here the Council fulfills a vital role.



Caring for our Environment is an important part of the Council's brief and this year has seen that commitment develop. The Environment Committee led by Cllr Michelle Atkinson, has been very active with the high spot of the year being the Environment Fayre held at the Hub in Kirkburton. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michelle for all her hard work. She can be seen in the photo to the left with volunteers, who completed the work on a drystone wall in Farnley Tyas.

Local food and growing your own is becoming more popular and the Council is responding by bringing the Grange Moor allotment site back into use and by working alongside Kirklees Council to identify new sites. The Council has also identified a potential new allotment site within the Parish area where negotiations are at an early stage.



A new tenant at Grange Moor makes a start

One disappointment this year has been that we did not apply for Quality Council status. All the work has been done and we now meet all the criteria, all that remains is to put together and submit the application. Quality status will reassure precept-payers that the Council is working properly and enable it to work more closely with Kirklees Council



My Civic Sunday in October, was held at St Lucius Church in my home village of Farnley Tyas. Being born, bred and having worked in the village all my life, it was very satisfying to bring a little sense of occasion to the village. Many thanks to the Mayor of Kirklees, Cllr Julie Stewart-Turner and all who attended for making it a very memorable and enjoyable occasion.

It has been very enjoyable getting out and about as Chairman and meeting people. Both Maureen and myself would like to thank everyone for their hospitality.

I was pleased to welcome Adrian Murphy to the Council this year, who was co-opted into the vacancy which arose in Shepley.

I would like to thank Cllr John Hirst, my Vice Chairman, for his help and support over the last year and hope that he finds his year as chairman as enjoyable and rewarding as mine has been.

Last but not least my thanks to the Clerk to the Council, Mrs Angela Royle, for all her help and support.

Cllr Robert Barraclough
Chairman 2009-10



Cllr Barraclough was pleased to be invited to the Kirkheaton Luncheon Club's Christmas Dinner

Summary of the Council's Activities and Decisions

Working in Partnership

As part of its community engagement strategy and its commitment to work with partner organisations, the Council shared a stand at Honley Show with Holme Valley Parish Council and with Denby Dale Parish Council, EPIP and the Denby Dale Centre at Emley Show. This proved to be a very useful way for the Council to face its electorate and highlight its work throughout the Parish. It also showed Parish Councils working together towards a common aim and we hope that co-operative attendance at the shows will become an annual event. The Clerks of the Parish Councils work together on a regular basis in a range of ways, which helps save time and money for all concerned.



Cllr Barraclough with Cllr Judith Roberts, Chairman of Holme Valley PC



Left to right: Jeannette Lodge (Denby Dale Centre), Cllr Nick Wilson (Chairman Denby Dale PC), Cllr Barraclough and Steve Gould (EPIP)

We have worked alongside Shelley Community Association to ensure the community facilities at Shelley Village Hall will continue for the benefit of the large number of voluntary groups who use the building. Our rolling maintenance programme has continued quite successfully, and this year we have provided a new fence along the boundary over Far Bank, extensions to the fire alarm system and improvements to the disabled ramp at the rear of the building. We are pleased to see the post office now functioning regularly and hope that it will have secured a large enough customer-base to become a permanent feature.

The Council was pleased to see the Community Association's plans for the rear garden, and has contributed to the programme by covering the cost of the new seat, which the Committee has already installed.

The Council is grateful to the Committee for its hard work in keeping the interior of the building in such a good condition. They have also made a number of improvements this year, as well as carrying out the usual caretaking tasks which makes it such a pleasant place for

the many Groups to meet in. There are ongoing negotiations with the Committee regarding the Community Association's purchase of the building, which we hope will be successfully concluded in the summer.



Rear garden area and new seat at Shelley Village Hall

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Council is working with EPIP on two projects. EPIP is funding the digitisation of the Parish records, which should make them more accessible to the public. There is also a jointly funded project between EPIP and the Parish Council, which is set to upgrade the Parish Walks with updated paperwork, improved signage and furniture on the ground.

The Council works with Kirklees in a number of ways – with the Area Committee where 6 of our Councillors sit with ward members and share the workload. We have also worked with the Countryside Unit – Neil Windett is one of our Environment co-opted members. We have funded or joint-funded some projects this year with the Countryside Unit such as rebuilding the drystone wall in Farnley Tyas and provided a training course for growing vegetable for enthusiastic amateur gardeners.

We have also kept up our connections with all of the schools and colleges in the area. We are running the sunflower competition again with the Year 3 children, and had a group of children from Shelley First School take part in an Environment Committee meeting.

Public Involvement

The Council is always keen to hear from its residents. There are public sessions before the Council and Environment Committee meetings and next year we hope to extend it to include all Committees. People can also contact the office and individual Councillors with requests for help and information or suggestions of different ways for operating. All comments will be considered.

The newsletter continues to be produced on a quarterly basis, and has now changed to a colour format. It is available from a number of outlets in the Parish such as health centres, post offices, libraries, village halls. It is posted on noticeboards where there is space, and is also on the website. It can be emailed or posted out to people on request. We are hoping to set up an email list to send out copies as it is published. Please let us know if you would be interested in receiving it in this way.

The website has been extended and next year should see further improvements, giving another way in which people can get in touch with us, should they wish to do so.



Noticeboards are now a feature of most villages in the Parish, where we post information about the Council and also encourage local groups and societies to put their notices up too. We helped Thurstonland Village Association with a new noticeboard and also organised and funded the planning permission for it. It is now in a better location in the village and is large enough to hold the community notices as well as the agendas. On the left the Chairman can be seen with Mrs Penny Lunn of the TVA when it was officially "opened".

The Council has done its bit to brighten up the villages with hanging baskets in the summer and Christmas trees in the winter. It has also paid its respects to the large number of people who have lost their lives in the service of their country, by providing 10 poppy wreaths to be laid on the war memorials on Armistice Day

Representation

The Council continues to represent the views of the people to Kirklees, national Government and various other organisations on a wide range of issues, which affect the public. We have contributed to a number of consultations which covered a range of subjects, such as tree preservation orders, housing, transport, planning policies which will affect future development, renewable and sustainable energy to name but a few. We also met with Highways officers to raise various traffic and parking issues to see if we can find suitable solutions.

The openness of the countryside and the many woodlands characteristic to this area are highly valued by everyone who lives and works in the Parish. This is uppermost in the Councillors' minds when they consider the various planning applications, and strive to try and ensure that the beauty is not sacrificed in the name of progress, and that developments enhance the area. Most of the planning applications come before the Council and comments are submitted to Kirklees Planning Authority where appropriate.



We have continued a dialogue with Metro and bus companies over a number of issues affecting some of our residents, and have also been in regular contact with many of the departments in Kirklees trying to sort out issues raised by members of the public. We also work with the Police on a regular basis, both as a body and individual Councillors are in contact with them about specific issues within their villages. There is often a representative from the Kirkburton team at meetings to update members on crime issues.

If there is an issue you think the Parish Council could help you with, please let us know and we will support you if we can.

Finance

Summary of Accounts 2009-10	£
Precept	127,000
Refund of VAT	3,464
Shelley Village Hall Rent	4,500
Other	190
Total Income	135,134
General Running Costs:	37,695
Administration including employment costs, insurance, meetings, office equipment, postage, stationery, telephone/internet.	
Rent and VAT (to be reclaimed in full) & donation in memory of Cllr Russell	7,180.21
Civic Governance:	*7,791
Audit, conferences, Chains of office, civic functions, elections, legal/professional advice and fees, subscriptions, training.	
Public Information:	2,463
Advertisements, annual report, newsletter, noticeboards, Emley & Honley Shows	
Grants:	46,087
Small grants to 55 non-profit organisations within the Parish; Community projects, environment and special grants.	
Village Projects:	33,236
Shelley Village Hall	6,626
Kirkheaton Churchyard	9,465
Hanging baskets, Christmas trees and poppy wreaths	7,990
Environment Projects: sunflower competition, environment fayre, water butts, trees for schools, walks, etc	7,395
Allotments	1,760
Total Expenditure:	134,452
Allocated Reserves (To cover costs of projects in progress, but not yet completed):	61,435
General Reserve:	38,105

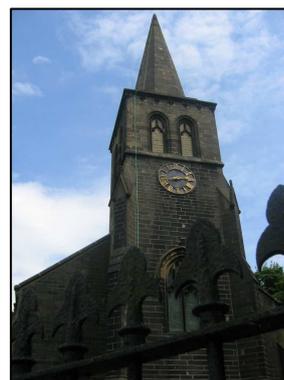
The general reserve figure is at the lower end of the range legally required to be maintained by Parish Councils under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2007.

* Because of the timing of the accounts meetings, this figure includes some legal costs for next year. Details of the full accounts can be viewed on the website.

Small Grants Awarded 2009-10

In total, £14,284 was awarded as annual small grants, individual grants are listed below. Community organisations are invited to apply in the autumn each year and are entitled to £250 every year. It can be taken in larger amounts so long as the total awarded over any three consecutive years does not exceed £750. Forms become available in September and must be returned with the financial information by the last Friday in October. Cheques are issued the following April at the beginning of the financial year. Churches are awarded £200 to contribute towards the maintenance of the church clock (subject to receipt of a written request).

Flockton	£
Flockton Tenants & Residents Assn	450
Flockton Youth Group	250
Grange Moor	
Grange Moor Bowling Club	300
Grange Moor Football Club	300
Kirkburton	
28th Huddersfield Cub Pack	160
28th Huddersfield Scout Troop	250
6th Pennine East Kirkburton Brownies	250
6th Pennine East Kirkburton Guides	250
Burton Out of School Club	150



Small Grants (Cont'd)

Highburton Playgroup	150
Kirkburton Business Association	350
Kirkburton Junior Football Club	214
Kirkburton PCC	200
Kirkburton Pre-School	249

Kirkheaton

44th Huddersfield (Kirkheaton) Cubs	250
119th Huddersfield (Kirkheaton) Guides	250
119th Huddersfield (Kirkheaton) Brownies	250
119th Huddersfield (Kirkheaton) Rainbows	250
Kirkheaton Luncheon Club	250

Kirkheaton PCC	200
Kirkheaton Pilots Company	250
Kirkheaton Senior Citizens Club	200

Lepton

Lepton Highlanders Girls Football Club	250
Lepton Highlanders Junior Football Club	250

Lepton PCC	200
Lepton Pilots	250
Lepton Luncheon Club	250
Lepton Rainbows	90

Shelley

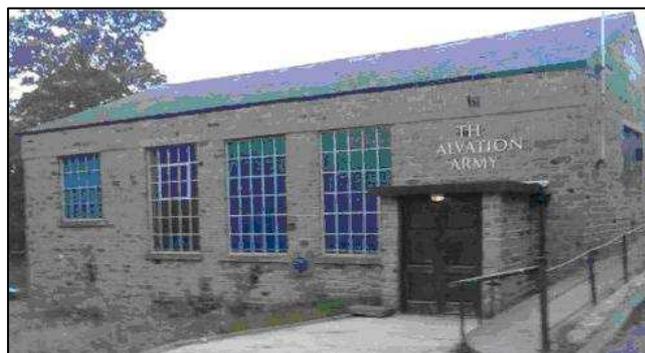
Far Bank Playgroup	250
Friends of Shelley Music Centre	286
Scissett Youth Band	250
Shelley Bridge Club	150
Shelley Junior Football	250
Shelley Over 60's Club	250
Shelley PCC	200
Shelley Scout Group	250
Shelley Thursday Club	225

Shepley

23rd Huddersfield Shepley Club Scout Group	250
National Childbirth Trust	250
Shepley Band	200
Shepley Bird & Wildlife Group	250
Shepley Bowling Club	360
Shepley Croquet Club	250
Shepley Football Club	250
Shepley Good Companions	200
Shepley Spring Festival	250
Shepley Tennis Club	200
Shepley Women's Institute	250
St Paul's & Emmanuel Church Youth Group	100

Thurstonland/Farnley Tyas

13th Pennine East Rainbow Unit (Thurstonland)	200
Farnley Tyas Bowling Club	750
Farnley Tyas Community Group	250
Farnley Tyas PCC	200
Stocksmoor & Thurstonland Toddler Group	200
Stocksmoor Village Hall	250
Stocksmoor Women's Institute	250
Thurstonland & Stocksmoor Out of School	250
Thurstonland PCC	200
Thurstonland Village Association	100



The various photographs show the range of of projects which have been funded in previous years, and serve to inform groups of the kinds of things the Parish Council supports. Forms can be downloaded from the website and are available from the Clerk, who will also be happy to advise on specifics.

Community Project Grants	£
Denby Dale Centre towards the costs of the annual rent and renewal of the lease.	3,125
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association to contribute towards the legal costs for the group's campaign to restore a village shop to Highburton.	3,000
Farnley Tyas Bowling Club towards refelting the clubhouse roof (to be paid out when certain conditions have been met.)	6,000
Thurstonland Cricket Club to contribute towards refurbishment of the club.	2,000
Lepton Methodist Church towards the refurbishment of the kitchen.	3,000
Shepley Band to contribute to the costs of the Band's trip to Italy.	3,000
Stocksmoor Village Hall towards the costs of refurbishment of the building.	1,600
Lepton Community Link towards the official opening of Lepton Square and the Lepton Fling.	800
Rowley Lane JI&N School to contribute towards the costs of converting the old tennis courts into a multi-use games area for use by the whole community.	5,000*
Shepley Cricket Club to cover the costs of upgrades to the drainage and replacement of the septic tank.	10,000*
Total Spent	£37,525

* These grants were paid out after the year-end and so are included in the Council's Allocated Reserves.

The Environment



The Environment Committee is made up of the majority of the Councillors and also benefits from the assistance of 3 co-optees – Mr Graham Cliffe, resident of the Parish, Mr Tim Scott representing both the Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association and the Civic Society and Mr Neil Windett, Kirklees Countryside Officer. All contribute to the work of the committee in various ways. We would like to record our thanks to all three for their work with the committee this year. It is also pleasing to see the large number of grants awarded supporting a variety of projects – the total amount is the most the committee has ever paid out.

The Committee has continued to develop its Environment Plan. The latest version can be downloaded from the website, and is also available from the office on request. We undertook a consultation on it last year with as many community organisations as possible, and have incorporated some of your suggestions into the Plan. It is an ongoing project working alongside the Council's Aims & Objectives. It will change and develop according to the needs of the area and in accordance with the wishes of the Council, so if you have any views or comments we would be pleased to receive them and will consider all suggestions.



The high point of the year for the Committee was the Environment Fayre & Sunflower Competition, which was held at The Hub in Kirkburton. A number of organisations supported the event where their work was on display, and the public was able to find out lots of relevant information on what is happening in their villages.

The sunflower competition was supported by the schools and involved quite a lot of work but it was worth it to see the children's faces when they came with their entries and waited in hopeful anticipation as Graham Porter of the Huddersfield Examiner, carefully measured them and pronounced judgement. We are grateful to Graham for his support, also to the Colne Valley Garden Centre, who donated some of the equipment and to the Kingsgate Centre for providing some of the prize vouchers free of charge.

Also present on the day was Caro Ward, an artist from Shepley, who kept the children entertained and created a "Tree of Life" to which all the children contributed. She also helped them to produce all manner of models from old cereal boxes and yogurt pots. It was a great day and enjoyed by all who came. As it was such a success, we are repeating it this year, and have already given out the seeds and pots to the Year 3 children in all 11 schools. We're looking forward to seeing the results on 18th September at The Hub in Kirkburton. Hope you will be able to join us!

Grants to Community Organisations	£	Totals
• Burton Environment Group to purchase flail grass cutting machine	4,158	
• KMC Countryside Unit to contribute towards the cost of repairing a drystone wall at Farnley Tyas	880	
• Shepley Village Association for match-funding for drainage improvements on Kirklees Way	675	
• Shelley Community Association to purchase a vandal-proof seat for the village hall garden	750	
• Kirklees Countryside Unit for a vegetable growing course	480	
• Thurstonland Village Group to purchase & install new picnic furniture for the recreation ground	1,803*	
• Burton Environment Group - insurance cover for volunteers when working on public land.	298*	
		£9,044
* These grants were paid out after the year-end and so are included in the Council's Allocated Reserves		
Environment Committee Projects		
• Sunflower Competition / Environment Fayre	816	
• Display Equipment / Water butts	243	
• Parish Walks working with EPIP to produce 11 circular walks across the Parish	6,000	
• Supporting the National Tree Week by providing trees/shrubs to all of the schools within the Parish. Some of the Parish Councillors also helped to plant them.	190	
		£7,249
Grants to Schools		
• Shelley First School for a trip to the National Coal Mining Museum	300	
• Flockton First School to create new flowerbeds and a vegetable garden	350	
• Grange Moor First School to create a new school garden	500	
• Highburton First School to develop the school pond	800	
• Flockton First School to purchase a greenhouse & shed for the allotment	1,500	
• Rowley Lane First School for a trip to the National Coal Mining Museum	230	
		£3,680
Total Spent:		£19,973



Raised beds at Highburton 1st School



New flowerbeds being planted at Flockton 1st School

Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Flockton		
Lin Holroyd	11a Hardcastle Lane, Flockton, Wakefield. WF4 4AR	01924 848780
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