



a voice  
for rural  
communities

# Annual Report

2015/2016

Charity (no. 1144604) Company limited by guarantee (no 7805401)

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

**I am delighted to present the Annual Report of Community Action Northumberland (CAN) for the year 2015-16.**

The year has been marked by changes in key officers. Dr David Francis retired as Director on 31st March 2016 after holding this position for thirty years. David has made a substantial contribution to CAN and has been instrumental in shaping its services and creating its reputation. We owe a debt of gratitude to David.



In June 2015 Andy Dean joined CAN in the part-time position of Chief Executive Officer. Andy is well known in Northumberland and his experience and background has enabled him to quickly settle in to renew and develop relationships with key customers, beneficiaries, partners, stakeholders and funders.

In April 2016 Stephen Rickitt joined the staff to manage the alliance with the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC). Stephen is an experienced Solicitor and has acted as Clerk to a number of Parish Councils.

Good progress has been made in pursuing our new mission that was established in 2014/15. This has involved promoting rural issues, acting as a 'rural voice' and in supporting many organisations and individuals by running and managing projects that are of benefit to people, particularly the disadvantaged.

I would like to make a special mention of our staff. They have worked extremely hard to implement the new direction and create benefits for customers and beneficiaries. Some exciting new projects have been launched and new alliances have been created accompanied by new sources of funding.

There has also been change on our Board. In October 2015 Sally Black MBE and Dr Hilary Talbot retired both after many years of service for which we are extremely grateful. The following people have joined the Board and have brought vital experience and knowledge of life and issues in rural Northumberland; Elizabeth Elliott, Mark Griffin, Miles Middleton, Councillor Anthony Murray, Jane Pannell and Valerie Vaughan.



Finally I would like to thank the many volunteers and supporters throughout the County whose interest, support and commitment are so invaluable.

**Adrian Hinchcliffe**

*Chair of  
Community Action  
Northumberland*

## 2015/16 SNAPSHOT

*“Challenging times these may be, but there are opportunities to be grasped and the need for CAN’s services has never been so great”*

*(Andy Dean, CAN News, September 2015)*

CAN has been very busy throughout 2015-16 both on traditional core areas of work and on a range of new activities. Highlights include:

- We have been supporting **village halls and community buildings** since we were formed in 1951. This remains at the heart of what we do. Around 250 community buildings exist across Northumberland offering vital facilities for community activities. Throughout the year we have supported management committees in one-to-one case work, good practice resources and training, funding bids, asset transfers and Village SOS projects. We continued to work closely with Northumberland’s two village hall consortia in the North and West of the county and assisted committees in achieving the Hallmark standard.
- Our direct partnership with the **Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC)** is hugely valued and fundamental to the way we work. We have provided advice, training and a wide range of support throughout the year including assisting Councils in accessing resources from the government’s Transparency Fund.
- We have developed a range of activities in relation to fuel poverty and energy efficiency including: re-launching our **OilCAN** joint heating fuel procurement scheme growing membership to over 500; launching **EnergyCAN**, a mechanism for helping organisations and individuals to secure cheaper electricity and gas contracts; promoting the Central Heating Fund and Warm Up North’s free boiler scheme.

- We delivered a successful **Warm Hubs** pilot project, supported by Northern Gas Networks: Warm Hubs are places within local communities where vulnerable people can be assured of finding a safe, warm and friendly environment in which to enjoy a healthy good value meal, and the company of other people. The project received the coveted Community Action Award in January – a national award recognising excellence and innovation in tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency among vulnerable households.
- In partnership with the North East Enterprise Agency Ltd (NEEAL), we secured funds from the Prince’s Countryside Fund, North East LEP and Rural Growth Network to support the **Rural Connect** network of rural enterprise hubs in helping to make sure rural businesses are not missing out on available support.
- We ran a successful **Unemployment project** in Haltwhistle helping local unemployed people no matter what their background through group and one-to-one sessions on completing application forms, writing CVs, travel planning, preparing for interviews, interview skills, self employment and life skill development.
- We managed the Wingates **Windfarm Community Fund** and began community engagement work in relation to a new Community Benefit Fund in relation to the Ray windfarm.
- We began development work on a range of new activities and worked hard to make sure Northumberland’s rural voice is heard.

This is just a brief snapshot of what we have been up to. For more information please view our website or contact [info@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:info@ca-north.org.uk)





# CAN'S FINANCES

Following a major review and restructure, 2015-16 was a second year of transition for CAN. Key targets were to maintain our financial relationship with both Defra and NALC. Both these objectives were achieved. We were also successful in achieving further diversification of our other income from a combination of grant, contract, consultancy and directly earned income.

Our annual deficit for the year was slightly reduced from 2014-15 and, more importantly, we had already secured a range of income for the ensuing year meaning that we start 2016-17 with greater confidence than for a number of years.

Significant thanks must go to our staff, trustees, members and supporters all of whom are listed below.

## Income and Expenditure Account (year ended 31 March 2016)

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
<b>Voluntary Income</b>		<b>Cost of Generating Income</b>	
Community donations	7,745	Salaries, NI, pension	11,415
Administration recharges	1,655		
Bank interest received	356		
<b>Charitable Activities Income</b>		<b>Charitable Activities</b>	
Training	578	Salaries, NI, pension	127,525
DEFRA	57,932	Project direct costs	19,060
NALC	30,000	Support costs	33,736
Big Lottery Fund	6,645	Redundancy costs	15,174
OilCAN	6,368		
Sundry income	13,340	<b>Governance Costs</b>	
Consultations & engagements	6,401	Salaries, NI, pension	9,582
Northern Gas Networks	23,572	Administration	2,397
European Social Fund	10,965	Legal fees	36
Vattenfall	9,430		
Community Action Partnership	4,940		
Community Foundation	17,660		
Infinis	2,510		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>200,097</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>218,925</b>
		<b>SURPLUS FOR YEAR</b>	<b>(18,828)</b>

### President

His Grace the Duke of Northumberland

### Vice Presidents

Lord Alan Beith; Mrs S E Black MBE;  
Rev Canon B Burston; Ven R Langley; Lady Sutherland;  
Mr J A Trotter OBE; Mrs S Walker

### Board of Directors

Mr George Courtice (Vice Chairman);  
Mrs Elizabeth Elliott;  
Mrs Linda Frater (Honorary Treasurer);  
Mr Andrew Gooding; Mr Mark Griffin;

Mr Adrian Hinchcliffe (Chairman); Mr Miles Middleton;  
Councillor Anthony Murray MBE; Mrs Jane Pannell;  
Ven Peter Robinson; Mrs Valerie Vaughan;  
Mr Michael Wood

### Staff

Andy Dean – Chief Executive Officer  
Stephen Rickitt – NALC Chief Officer  
Louise Currie – Community Initiatives Officer  
Christine Nicholls – Community Development Officer  
Julia Plinston – Community Development Officer  
Carol Davison – Finance & Admin Officer  
Margaret Tweddell – Finance & Admin Assistant

# MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS 2015-16

Acomb Parish Council; ACRE; ACRE Village SOS;  
Age UK Northumberland;  
Allendale Village Hall & Recreation Ground;  
Alnmouth Parish Council; Amble Town Council;  
Ancroft Memorial Hall; Aon UK Ltd;  
Bamburgh Parish Council; Barbour Foundation;  
Bavington Parish Council; Belford Parish Council;  
Berwick Upon Tweed Town Council;  
Big Lottery Fund Grant; Birtley Parish Council;  
Mrs S E Black MBE; Blagdon Park Cricket Club;  
British Gas; Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council;  
Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council;  
Rev Canon R B S Burston; Bywell Parish Council;  
Capheaton Parish Council; Charities Aid Foundation;  
Chollerton Parish Council; Christ's Hospital in Sherburn;  
CLA North; Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation;  
Community Foundation; Cornhill Parish Council;  
A G Courtice; Crookham Village Hall;  
Dept for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs;  
Diocese of Newcastle; East Bedlington Parish Council;  
Eglington Parish Council; Ellingham Parish Council;  
Mrs E Elliott; Embleton Parish Council;  
European Social Fund Community Grant Programme;  
Felton Parish Council; FONDT; Forestry Commission;  
Mrs L Frater; M Gibbs; Mrs R Gibbs;  
Gilsland Village Hall; A Gooding; M Griffin;  
Hadrian Trust; Healey Parish Council;  
Heddon on the Wall Parish Council;  
Hedley Parish Council; Hepple Parish Council;  
Hepscott Village Hall; A Hinchcliffe;  
Horncliffe Parish Council; Horsley Parish Council;  
Independent Cinema Office; W D Johnson;  
The Joicey Trust;  
Knarsdale & Kirkhaugh Community Association;  
Knarsdale & Kirkhaugh Parish Council;  
Sir James Knott Trust; Ven R Langley;  
Langley Village Hall; Lesbury Parish Council;  
J F Lewis; Longframlington Parish Council;  
Longhorsley Village Hall; Mrs A Lowrie;  
Matfen Parish Council; C G Matthews-Maxwell;  
M Middleton; Middleton & Todridge Village Hall;  
G E Miller; Mind Active; Mitsubishi; D H Morgan;  
Morpeth Town Council; N Mundy; A Murray MBE; NALC;  
National Energy Action; Netherwitton Parish Council;  
Newbrough Parish Council;  
Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council;  
Norham Parish Council;  
North Northumberland Village Hall Consortium;  
Northern Gas Networks; Duke of Northumberland;  
Northumberland County Council; Northumberland CVA;  
Northumberland Federation of Womens Institutes;  
Association of Northumberland Local History Societies;  
OilCAN Members; Ovingham Parish Council;

Ovingham Reading Room; Ovington Parish Council;  
Jane Pannell; Pegswood Parish Council;  
People's Health Trust; Ponteland Memorial Hall;  
Ponteland Town Council; R Poppleton;  
Mrs S Richardson; Ven P Robinson;  
Rochester Parish Council; Rothbury Jubilee Institute;  
Rothbury Parish Council; The Rothley Trust;  
The Christopher Rowbotham Charitable Trust;  
K Rushworth; Shoreswood Parish Council;  
Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council;  
Simonburn Parish Council; Slaley Parish Council;  
Stannington Village Hall; Lady Margaret Sutherland;  
Dr H Talbot; Thropton Parish Council;  
Togston Parish Council;  
Tritlington & West Chevington Parish Council;  
Ulgham Parish Council; Ulgham WI;  
United Reformed Church;  
Upper Coquetdale Community Transport;  
Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd; Mrs V Vaughan; VONNE;  
Mrs S Walker; Wallington Demesne Parish Council;  
Warden Parish Council;  
Wark Town Hall & Mechanics Institute;  
Warkworth Choir; Warkworth Parish Council;  
Warm Up North; West Northumberland Community  
Buildings Consortium;  
Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council;  
Whittington Parish Council; Widdrington WI;  
Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund; M Wood;  
Wooler Parish Council; Woolsington Parish Council;  
Workers' Educational Association;  
Wylam Institute Community Association;  
Wylam Parish Council.



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