

We're a small charity making a **big difference** in Derbyshire.

Annual Review **2021/22**



CHAIR'S REMARKS

Simon Taylor

The fact that being a trustee of Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD) is a voluntary role does not mean that it is easy or with little responsibility. Quite the opposite, in fact. RAD's trustees have ultimate legal responsibility for the charity, ensuring that the organisation works within the legal rules and best practice guidance of both Company Law and the Charity Commission.

RAD's trustees recently gave up extra time to go through training provided by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations on the roles and responsibilities of charity trustees. This was a useful refresher for our longer-serving trustees, as well as being a well-timed event for our recently recruited trustees - some of whom have not been in these positions before.

In addition to these specific legal responsibilities, the trustees work alongside the staff team to make decisions on significant new opportunities, major organisational challenges, policies and controls. As always, each of these decisions will be guided by our mission statement and strategic aims.

"Our overarching vision, 'We believe that no-one should be unfairly disadvantaged because they live in a rural area', pretty well summarises what RAD has been about ever since it was founded in 1924"

Our overarching vision, 'We believe that no one should be unfairly disadvantaged because they live in a rural area', could also be called our purpose or reason to exist. This has remained unchanged for several years and pretty well summarises what RAD has been about ever since it was founded in 1924.

The challenge with such a broad vision is to maintain an operational focus and not to spread people and financial resources too thinly. This is particularly hard to resist currently, when many members of the rural community in Derbyshire are facing very difficult personal situations. To keep things focused and effective, the trustees and senior management team periodically review the strategy, in practical terms deciding what we will do and what we won't. Each year the strategic aims are broken down into specific objectives; for 2022-23, this equates to 5 strategic aims made up of around 60 operational objectives.

All at RAD are worried about how food inflation, energy prices and increased economic uncertainty will significantly exacerbate the challenges of the people we are already helping. We are also realistic that we can only scratch the surface of these social problems. But that makes us ever more resolute to work professionally and focus our resources so that we make a meaningful difference to as many people as possible in rural Derbyshire.



FROM THE CEO

Beverley Parker



Derbyshire is a beautiful county, full of contrasts - from the rugged beauty of the Dark Peak to the farming lowlands around the south of the county and the former coalfields to the east. Living in the countryside has never been more popular, and yet for many it can be lonely, isolating and financially crippling. Virtually every commodity costs more. The cost of living has been steadily rising due to global events, and rural communities feel the cost of food, fuel and housing ever more keenly. Coupled with low wages, poor transport and patchy broadband, it is little wonder that living in the countryside can be a challenge.

The team at Rural Action Derbyshire have worked tirelessly to attempt to stem the tide of people struggling to make ends meet. We have secured additional investment into our work around food poverty to pilot the first phase of community pantries and expand our Healthy Holiday programme with funding secured from Derbyshire County Council. We have made 81 awards of cash or white goods to Derbyshire residents suffering severe financial hardship, totalling more than £15,000.

"We had great success in gaining media coverage for our campaigns"

We launched an Oil Bank, alongside our Oil Buying Scheme, in 2021 in response to rocketing heating oil prices, which saw the cost of a minimum order more than double from around £225 to more than £500 in a matter of months.

We supported 6 people who could not afford to pay for oil, leaving them without heating or hot water.

We are proud of our success in persuading the media to cover our campaigns to raise awareness of the financial crisis in rural areas. We have highlighted rural hardship on BBC Countryfile, to an audience of 6m people, and on BBC Radio Derby and BBC East Midlands Today, where we have spoken about financial and food insecurity.

We will continue to campaign with our ACRE network colleagues for a cohesive and comprehensive national rural strategy that recognises the need for investment in rural areas if they are to thrive as inclusive, diverse and sustainable communities. We will also seek to influence local policies to address rural disadvantage and work to provide opportunities for people to flourish.

This comes as we at RAD begin to work more closely once again, with many of the team joining forces in the office after two years of Teams meetings and cancelled events. Strong teamwork and shared values has been a key reason for our sustained success over the years, and we are looking forward to spending more time together in the future.

Beverley Parker

MEET THE TEAM

RAD has a dedicated and hard-working team of 16 staff, the majority working part-time. The longest-serving has been with us for 20 years and the most recent recruits joined us in April 2022. Here we highlight just three of the team - but rest assured, everyone plays a vital role to help RAD continue so successfully.



Charlotte Winterbottom

Policy & Partnerships Officer

My role at RAD is to raise awareness of rural poverty and try to tackle it - including through our affordable food project, Feeding Derbyshire. While this can be challenging, we try to make a difference every day and advocate for people in rural areas whose voices are often not heard.



Laura Mitchell

Wheels to Work Project Manager

Helping the community is something that's always been really important to me, which is why I love working for RAD. In my role, I get to see people literally transform their lives, which is so rewarding.



Skye Peat

Events & Marketing Executive

I love working at RAD and with such lovely colleagues. The range of projects that we have means that two days are never the same. It's been amazing to learn how much RAD helps people in Derbyshire and I continue to be amazed every day.

MEET THE TRUSTEES

RAD has a great team of 11 trustees. They all offer their time in a volunteer capacity and come together four times a year for board meetings, as well as for other meetings and training. Some have been with us for years, with three new trustees joining us in April 2022. Here we highlight just three of our inspiring team.

Amy Wheelton

I became a trustee with RAD as their work links closely with many areas of my other role as a District Councillor, enabling me to provide a stronger voice for rural areas. I am South Derbyshire born and bred, and I am passionate about protecting the rural way of life.



Roger Bennett

It was an easy decision for me to become a trustee of Rural Action Derbyshire this year as their activities bring together differing agencies to tackle social problems. I am also a trustee for FareShare Midlands so I know that the provision of nutritious food is central to the wellbeing of people in all sections of society.



Phil Coates

The main reason I joined RAD is because of the work that they do to prevent suicide - I have lost too many friends in the past. Yet they help people in so many other ways, too - including through the oil buying scheme. Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of being interviewed for the BBC News to promote the service.



5 Key Issues



Fuel Crisis

Fuel prices are skyrocketing - with heating oil costs increasing by over **200% between April '21 and April '22**



Rising Food Prices

The cost of living crisis has forced more people to rely on food banks - with **demand rising by 49% since the start of the pandemic**



Poor Public Transport

Fewer than half of people living in rural areas can access places with 5,000 or more jobs within 45 minutes' travel, compared with 91% of people in urban areas



Fewer Opportunities

In a typical rural community in Derbyshire, almost **1/3 are not in employment,** and **average house prices are almost 50% higher** than in Derby city centre



Ageing Population

In an average village in the county, **1/5 are aged over 65**, and around **1/20 are living with "bad" general health**

How We Help

Our Vision

We believe that no-one should be unfairly disadvantaged because they live in a rural area.

Our Mission

To improve quality of life for Derbyshire residents, by empowering people in rural communities to take action to address disadvantage, become more sustainable and increase local control.

Our Ambition

To address rural disadvantage so that rural communities are sustainable, vibrant and accessible to everyone regardless of age, background or income.

Our Commitment to Diversity

We have joined the Anti Racist Alliance. Through this, we have agreed to a set of Anti Racist Principles, and have pledged to go beyond a zero tolerance approach to racism and to commit to positive action to become and remain a proactive anti-racist organisation.

OUR HIGHLIGHTS

SOME OF OUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR...



Rural Business Awards

After picking up a regional prize at this year's Rural Business Awards, we were given the chance to shoot a film about the vital work we do here at Rural Action Derbyshire


Surprise Socks

Alongside Derby-based charity Treats, we helped to distribute a surprise donation of 1,000 socks to vulnerable families

We were finalists in two categories at the Derbyshire Times Business Excellence Awards, and were invited to attend a formal celebration for our Community Initiative and Covid Response efforts


Derbyshire Times Business Excellence Awards

Our short film on rural domestic abuse, 'The Willows', was distributed on YouTube by Rural Media - and received over 13,000 views in the first 10 months


The Willows Short Film

RAD IN THE MEDIA

WHEN OUR WORK GRABS HEADLINES...



ON TELEVISION

We were invited onto BBC East Midlands Today to discuss our response to the fuel crisis, and were featured on the national BBC News as part of their cost of living coverage. We have also been visited by the Countryfile team to chat oil buying and our short film on rural domestic abuse, 'The Willows'



BBC RADIO Derby

ON THE AIRWAVES

We have been regular guests on BBC Radio Derby, discussing everything from fuel poverty to our Feeding Derbyshire project





Rural Action Derbyshire

Mental health struggles for men in rural communities

We all know how important it is to look after our mental health. Yet, for many men, this can prove a serious – or even fatal – challenge.

Research by mental wellbeing charity CALM has found that 75% of suicides in the UK are male, making it the single biggest killer of men under the age of 45. Why are so many struggling to cope? Well, for many years, it has not been seen as 'manly' to open up about mental health, with the default approach being to keep a 'stiff upper lip and carry on in silence through difficult times. This is an even greater issue in rural communities, where social isolation is far more prominent and stigma around mental wellbeing is more troubling.

But it shouldn't be this way, and thankfully things are beginning to change. Here at RAD, we have been working to support men in rural communities for a number of years, through a number of different services. With our suicide awareness training, we can help local businesses and individuals to understand the signs of poor mental health and develop the confidence to reach out to those who may be in need of a friendly face.

And our Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy service provides a crucial line of support for members of the farming community, offering an ear to those who may otherwise feel completely alone. A recent Samaritans survey has found that men in rural areas are less likely to open up about their mental health than men in urban areas. Yet through our telephone calls, pastoral care and referrals to other health professionals, we are encouraging men to talk through mental ill-health and the often

is a listening role. We can gauge the pulse of the farming community through our conversations, through this role as listeners."

Vital outreach is also being expanded on a national level. Suicide prevention charity Samaritans has recently teamed up with NFU Mutual to increase its support in the most isolated and hard-to-reach communities, opening a line of dialogue with people who are struggling to cope to prevent them from reaching crisis point. By offering men a chance to talk about their mental health, we can all try to make sure no one feels isolated and alone.

If you feel that you are in need of support, please contact our Rural Chaplaincy team on the confidential helpline: 0773 20 088 372.

George White
Rural Action Derbyshire

IN THE PAPERS

As well as highlighting key issues in our regular Melbourne Life and Derbyshire Times columns, we made national headlines with our incredible batch cook project success



METRO LIFESTYLE

Woman helps feed more than 160,000 people during the pandemic with epic batch cooking

Comment

Natalie Morris

Thursday 25 Nov 2021 9:02 am

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Nearly **400 people** have been supported as part of the Rural Chaplaincy, with **20 new long-term referrals** this year



Our batch cook scheme helped **11 food groups** to produce over **154,000 meals**





25,000 meals were provided to vulnerable children during the school holidays



15 e-bulletins were sent to community buildings during a period of uncertainty



Our **5 pilot community pantries** have offered affordable meals to **720 vulnerable households**



We provided rural domestic abuse awareness training to **100 people**



We provided **45 people** with bikes and mopeds, helping with work and training opportunities



Our Community Oil Buying customers saved over **£42,000** by purchasing heating oil through our scheme

OUR YEAR IN AWARDS

2021 charitytimes Awards
Recognising leadership and professionalism
Shortlisted

Shortlisted
CHARITY TIMES AWARDS
CHARITY OF THE YEAR: INCOME UNDER £1M

2x Finalist
BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS
COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
COVID RESPONSE

Derbyshire Times
BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2021
FINALIST

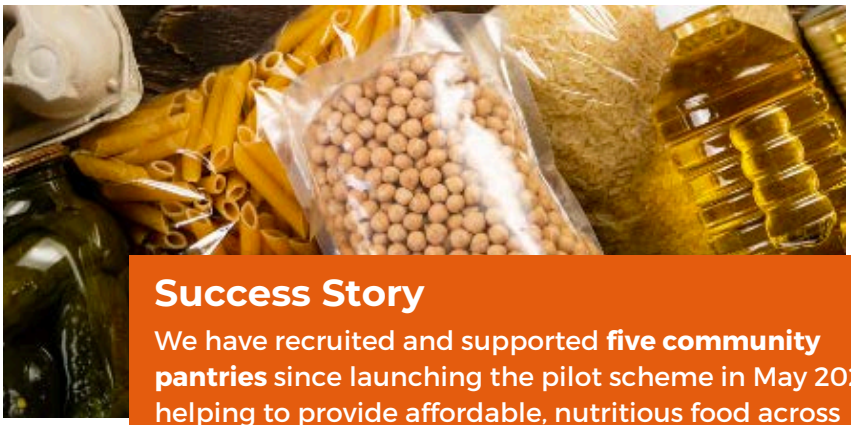
THE RURAL BUSINESS AWARDS MIDLANDS
in partnership with amazon
REGIONAL WINNER
2021/22

Winner
RURAL BUSINESS AWARDS (MIDS)
BEST RURAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE









Success Story

We have recruited and supported **five community pantries** since launching the pilot scheme in May 2021, helping to provide affordable, nutritious food across the county.

The rising cost of living

With the soaring cost of living, an increasing number of people are being pushed towards poverty - with up to 16 million in the UK expected to be classed as living in poverty by 2023.

This is an even bigger problem for rural communities, for whom average prices are rising at twice the rate of urban areas.

The demand for support

The impact of this squeeze on incomes is clear to see. In some areas of Derbyshire, the demand for food banks has risen by almost 50% since the start of the pandemic, and at the height of Covid, applications for free school meals increased by over 600%. These are unprecedented figures caused by an unprecedented phenomenon.

The meal delivery has been thoroughly enjoyed by the children who look forward to it all day

A helping hand

To help tackle the problem, Rural Action Derbyshire, through the Feeding Derbyshire network, has launched a number of programmes. We are currently in the process of creating a Community Pantry Scheme, through which eight pantries across the county will offer healthy food for an affordable price - with an average shop costing just £3.50, 10% of the supermarket price.

And since April 2021 we have expanded our Healthy Holiday programme thanks to funding from Derbyshire County Council. This has proven a vital source of nutritious meals for children at 15 different clubs, with 25,000 meals provided in the October half-term alone. One group leader said, "The meal delivery has been thoroughly enjoyed by the children who look forward to it all day. They want everyone to know how much they appreciate it."

FEEDING DERBYSHIRE
Community Pantry Scheme

What are community pantries?

Pantries are community-run stores selling nutritious food and groceries for a fraction of the cost of a supermarket shop, making sure everyone can afford to eat - regardless of their income



Why are pantries needed?

The need and demand for emergency food has increased significantly since the start of the pandemic (rising by over 40%), with community food projects reporting an increase in people making repeat visits and needing regular support



Where can I find them?

Our current pantries are: Eckington Pantry (Eckington), Farmer's Larder (Hurst Farm), Gussie's (Chesterfield), Storehouse (Shirebrook), Oscari (Riddings)



What are the aims of the scheme?

We are aiming to build a network of pantries across the county, including at least one in each borough - with the initiative expected to grow to 12 outlets within 2 years



How did the scheme come about?

Derbyshire County Council provided £300,000 to Rural Action Derbyshire to help set up these community pantries in some of Derbyshire's most deprived areas

How can I find out more?

Get in touch with Charlotte Winterbottom, Policy & Partnerships Officer for Feeding Derbyshire, on c.winterbottom@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Or go to: ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Feeding Derbyshire

Rural Action DERBYSHIRE





Success Story

Our appearances on BBC East Midlands Today, BBC Radio Derby and Greatest Hits Radio helped to attract **57 new members** to the oil buying scheme in a single quarter

Soaring fuel prices

We have all been affected by the rising cost of oil caused by the conflict in Ukraine, which has created unprecedented fuel expenses for motorists - with prices increasing by over 10% a month in the first quarter of 2022. This has combined with the Government's decision to raise the cap on energy prices, increasing household bills by up to an astonishing 54%.

However, for the 20% living off the mains gas grid in Derbyshire, costs are even more extreme. While many of us only use fuel to fill up our cars, thousands in Derbyshire rely on oil to heat up their homes. For these, the cost of living has become almost unbearable, with oil bills rising by over 200% in just over a year, pushing many in rural areas towards poverty.

I've got peace of mind that I'm getting the best deal for my oil every time

Strength in numbers

As oil companies navigate the impacts of the Ukraine crisis, our Community Oil Buying work has become more important than ever. Where some residents were being quoted as much as 177ppl for their heating oil, we have been able to use our negotiating power to keep prices below 100ppl. This makes a difference of over £300 on a minimum order of 500 litres.

We now have over 600 members in total, having attracted another 57 in a single quarter following a multi-channel media push. Our efforts to maintain lower prices have been appreciated by our beneficiaries, with one Community Oil Buying customer saying, "I used to worry more about fuel costs, but now I've got peace of mind that I'm getting the best deal every time."

Oil Bank

For all of our success with oil buying, however, some households are still in desperate need of support. As a result, we set up an Oil Bank to offer emergency support - and raised £1,400 to purchase at least two 500 litre oil deliveries for people in need.



Become a Community Oil Buying Member

The soaring cost of heating oil - which **doubled in the first quarter of 2022** - has made our community oil buying scheme more important than ever.

If you rely on oil to heat your home and you live in Derbyshire, you can join the programme - **become a member and we can order oil for you every two weeks**. No membership fee, no obligation.

The more members that join the scheme and the more oil we order the more buying power we have to negotiate. Together, **we can fight the cost of living**.

Go to: ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk/oil

Peaks & Dales
E-Bike Holiday Hire



VISIT PEAK DISTRICT & DERBYSHIRE

Rural Action DERBYSHIRE

Offering enjoyable, environmentally-friendly travel for holidaymakers in the Peak District and Derbyshire Dales.

Find out more on our website

peaksanddales.org.uk


Village Halls Week
24-30 January 2022
Innovating for the future
#VillageHallsWeek
To 'celebrate and support the arts', Rural Action Derbyshire pledges to:
Promote 'Live & Local' during Village Halls Week so that more communities can enjoy fantastic live entertainment at their local village hall.
Date: Wednesday 26th January




EVENT
TEAM




2021/22 REGIONAL
WINNER
BEST RURAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, CHARITY OR COMMUNITY PROJECT
THE RURAL BUSINESS AWARDS MIDLANDS
RURAL ACTION DERBYSHIRE


Beverley says many people are struggling in Derbyshire
Beverley Parkeris chief executive of the charity Rural Action D
which aims to tackle disadvantage in rural communities.
She says as the cost of living has gone up, people are having to
difficult choices about what they spend their money on.
"We've heard of people switching off their fridges, which doesn't
help from an energy saving point of view because the biggest pa
bill is the standing charge, but they think it will.
"It's a massive risk and we've heard of people getting food poisc
eating food that's not been stored correctly."
Public transport in rural areas can also be expensive. "We've hea
people walking six miles to the food bank and six miles home,"
because they can't afford the bus.


NEWS
The Willows tells the story of Dawn forced to live under the control of her coercive husband.
Rural focus on domestic violence


Rural Action


Derbyshire
BUSINESS
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS 2021
Thursday 25th November 2021


EVENT
TEAM




6.8





Fewer opportunities

Simply put, very often living in a rural area means fewer opportunities to work, train and gain a high quality education. And this is largely down to a lack of access to reliable, affordable transport - with a Department for Transport study finding that 50% of the rural population are living in areas that have the poorest accessibility to services.

Getting people moving

Wheels to Work was created to encourage people to look for a job or training opportunity that they really want to do, rather than simply settling for what is available nearby. This improves job satisfaction and motivation, ensuring people can not only find employment, but stay in employment for longer periods.

Over the past year, Wheels to Work has provided 45 people in isolated areas with bikes and mopeds, helping to remove barriers to a higher standard of living and quality of life.

The need and demand for Wheels to Work remains high, and we will continue to work hard to ensure we can continue to be there for as many people as we can.



Case Study
- Jamie Harris, W2W Beneficiary

"The main challenge I faced when trying to find employment was travel. I would have to catch two separate buses starting at 5.30am, and they took a really long time. So I joined the Wheels to Work programme to try and find an easier way to commute.

I managed to get a Kickstart placement as a dry stone waller at Chatsworth Estate. If it wasn't for Wheels to Work, I wouldn't have been able to do this.

The scheme also works out cheaper than getting the bus, and that includes buying petrol. Now I'm planning to stay on for another six months and use the money I'll save to hopefully get my driving license and a car."

The future of the service has been boosted by the launch of the Peaks & Dales E-Bike Holiday Hire service, through which tourists in Derbyshire can hire an e-bike from us for their holiday. We expect this to begin making a profit within six months of operation, providing an additional source of income to enable the further expansion of services for disadvantaged people in rural areas of the county.

After leaving the Wheels to Work scheme, 92% of people feel they have more independence and 75% are in the same job as when they started

RURAL ACTION DERBYSHIRE







Isolation and abuse

Domestic abuse is a serious issue across the country - with 1 in 5 people experiencing abuse in their lifetime. Yet the situation is even more severe in rural communities, with the National Rural Crime Network finding that abuse lasts 25% longer in less built-up areas due to social isolation and a lack of adequate support services.

There can also be outdated attitudes in villages that worsen the situation for victims, with the Rural Services Network finding that many "traditional, patriarchal communities control and subjugate women".

Spreading awareness and support

To try and eradicate this isolation, spread awareness and change attitudes in rural areas, we run The Willow Project with funding from the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner, delivering awareness training and events throughout the county.

The training was pitched at the right level and there was enough time to absorb the information and ask questions

Success Story

Our short film on rural domestic abuse, 'The Willows', has received over 13,000 views on the Rural Media YouTube channel

Despite the challenges created by Covid, we have delivered high-quality support through a number of different channels. Firstly, we held around 20 online training sessions over the past year, informing around 100 people of the signs of the abuse and providing advice on how to help those who may be in need. These training sessions have received very positive feedback, with one attendee saying, "Domestic abuse is a difficult topic to address but the style and way it was presented enhanced my learning in what I felt was a very safe environment. The delivery was pitched at the right level and there was enough time to absorb the information and ask questions."

We have also launched a TikTok page (@twillowproject) which provides useful, concise advice to domestic abuse survivors, and has already reached thousands of younger rural people so far. And we are increasing our face-to-face presence once again, attending more police fairs and public events to increase awareness.



DONATE

FUND OUR WORK

RURAL HARDSHIP FUND

Help us to provide cash, food and household goods to the most vulnerable by pledging a donation to our Rural Hardship Fund.

OIL BANK

The cost of energy has risen for everyone, but for the 20% of Derbyshire households living off mains gas, it has truly skyrocketed - with the cost of heating oil doubling in the first quarter of 2022.

Help us to provide oil to those most in need by donating to our Oil Bank.

To support our work, please visit:
ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk/Appeal/rural-action-derbyshire



RURAL HARDSHIP FUND

> ***This payment has been a real life saver. These grants are a tremendous help to people that are struggling through no fault of their own***

Easing the squeeze

As Covid forced many into unemployment or onto furlough, thousands of households across rural Derbyshire found themselves moving closer to the poverty line, often having to choose between heating and eating. And while the pandemic has begun to ease over the past year, its impacts are still being felt now.

That is why we are continuing with our Rural Hardship Fund, which provides vulnerable people with cash, food or household goods to help them cope with these hard times.

The fund has received 81 applications in the past year - and has paid out £17,710.70 in total. We have had an excellent response from nearly all of our applicants, and we have been able to make onward referrals to other agencies such as SSAFA the Armed Forces charity and Marches Energy for support with energy debt, demonstrating our effective collaborative strategy for eradicating rural poverty.



SUICIDE AWARENESS

> ***Brilliant training on suicide awareness from Rural Action Derbyshire. Learned a lot that I can put to use if it's ever needed. Would highly recommend to anyone***

Awareness and understanding

As much as the Covid pandemic has had a significant impact financially, it has also taken a real toll on many people mentally. As successive lockdowns forced us to stay inside, feelings of loneliness and isolation rose dramatically - with 1 in 3 people in the UK saying their mental health has worsened since the start of the pandemic. Even now, as regulations ease and we can socialise again, there is still anxiety around coronavirus and its ongoing impacts, creating new challenges for people's wellbeing.

These challenges can be even more serious for those living in rural areas, as many face longer distances to travel to access mental health services and support. To help tackle this problem, we run online suicide awareness training courses to inform people of the nature of mental health challenges and give them the confidence to support others when they are in need, helping to prevent suicide in Derbyshire.

Over the past year, we have run 19 courses which have been attended by 188 people - with 100% rating these as "good" or "very good" - and demand remains high across the county.



COMMUNITY BUILDINGS ADVISORY SERVICE





Case Study

Goseley Centre in South Derbyshire were unable to sign a new lease due to historic boundary issues and insufficient trustees. We helped them with advice on governance and lease arrangements to help secure the title to the land and sign a new lease

A place to meet new people and learn new skills

For over a century, community buildings have acted as a vital hub for rural communities, providing a place for people to learn, relax and socialise. And that is still very much the case today. In fact, research by rural charity ACRE found that in 60% of villages, community halls are the only place for people to meet in the area. Without them, many would simply have nowhere to go.

Yet these hubs are facing growing challenges. As successive lockdowns forced many to close their doors, volunteers have found it difficult to deal with the financial and operational impacts of such an unprecedented period.

I always think, 'Where would I go for help if I didn't have RAD?'

Help for hubs

This is what makes our work so important. Our Community Buildings Advisory Service is the only place for committee members to receive vital information and guidance to help them navigate these challenges. Our Adviser, Helena Stubbs, has a decade of experience in the world of village halls, and we are part of a national network of experts, meaning we have access to a wealth of knowledge to deal with any issues that may arise.

And we have continued this vital support even when many halls remained closed and restrictions remained in place. Over the last year, we have sent 15 e-bulletins and held 7 virtual coffee mornings to offer online assistance. We also hosted our first online conference, which included expert talks and open discussions, and received very positive feedback from the 60 delegates that attended. Our importance was summed up neatly by one committee member, who said, "I always think, 'Where would I go for help if I didn't have RAD?'"

Fit for the Future
VILLAGE & COMMUNITY HALLS

Rural Action
DERBYSHIRE

Village and Community Buildings

Membership Scheme

Offering specialist advice, guidance and resources for community building committees across Derbyshire.



£75 + VAT

Total £90 pa

Only £1.73pw



Year-Round Support

- Regular email updates on relevant topics
- E-bulletin on village and community hall issues
- Advice and information by email, telephone and on our website



Expert Advice

- Our Village Halls and Community Buildings Adviser, Helena Stubbs, has over a decade's experience in the field



Discounts and Offers

- 50% discount on tickets for training and events
- 25% discount on ACRE Information Sheets, Model Documents and more
- 25% discount on virtual (online) 121 consultancy
- 20% discount on in-person 1-2-1 consultancy

Find out more at

ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk



DIGITAL INCLUSION

Success Story

We have trained **10 'Cyber Buddy' volunteers** to help people in Derbyshire use technology safely and confidently

An increasingly digital world

The importance of getting online was already well-known before the start of the pandemic, but successive lockdowns and social restrictions made it more clear than ever. As meeting places closed their doors and visiting other people's houses became off-limits, the importance of keeping in touch digitally became even greater - and that doesn't look like changing.

However, research from the Civil Society has found that 22% of the UK population lack basic digital skills, and in rural areas, only 21% of households have superfast broadband availability - compared to 86% of urban households. Put simply, many people are at risk of being left behind as reliance on the virtual world continues to increase.

Confidence and connectivity

To ensure everyone has access to all the benefits of technology, we are refreshing our Digital Inclusion strategy to include a focus on spotting gaps in digital support, and working with partners to develop new, innovative inclusion activities.

This will build on our current work with training service users to become more confident with using technology. We have already trained over 70 people, helping to reduce social isolation and boost access to work and training opportunities. "It is wonderful to have someone who can help me out with the internet," said one beneficiary.

We have trained 10 'Cyber Buddy' volunteers to help people in Derbyshire use technology safely and confidently. We will also continue our push to recruit Digital Ambassadors and Digital Champions, who will learn how to pass on skills and knowledge to those in need of help in their local communities.

> *"It is wonderful to have someone who can help me out with the internet*



DERBYSHIRE RURAL CHAPLAINCY: TWO DECADES OF SUCCESS

After over **20 years of close collaboration** between Rural Action Derbyshire and the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy, the service has moved away from our stewardship

> *It is so important that support is there when people need it. We wish DRC all the very best for the future*

Following two decades of close and successful collaboration, the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy will no longer be managed by Rural Action Derbyshire.

The Chaplaincy service, which supports those in the agricultural community with telephone calls, pastoral care and referrals to other health professionals, moved under the stewardship of Chaplaincy Derbyshire on 1 April 2022.

A fruitful partnership

The partnership between the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy and Rural Action Derbyshire began in the wake of the traumatic Foot and Mouth outbreak in 2001, and since then, hundreds in the farming community have been helped through challenging times, with over 200 supported through the Coronavirus pandemic alone - as DRC provided an ear at a time when many had no one else to turn to.

The Chaplaincy team have also been, and remain, a consistent presence at livestock markets, agricultural shows, and out on the farm across Derbyshire. They continue to grow the Farmers' Harvest and Carol Service in the main store in Bakewell, too, which have become regular fixtures in the farming calendar.

Thoughts from our CEO

"I have been extremely proud to be associated with the work of the chaplaincy and look forward to maintaining close links with Alan and the team in the future," said Beverley Parker.

"As a farmer myself I understand only too well the pressures that farming brings. It is so important that support is there when people need it. I wish DRC all the very best for the future."

MAIN FUNDERS 2021/22

Action for Communities in Rural England
Amber Valley Borough Council
Bolsover District Council
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Derby & Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner
European Social Fund (University of Derby)
Feeding Britain
Foundation Derbyshire
Methodist Church Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire District
Mugginton Parochial Church Council
National Association for Voluntary and Community Action
National Lottery Community Fund/Big Lottery Fund
North East Derbyshire District Council
South Derbyshire District Council
St Barnabas Church

DERBYSHIRE County Council

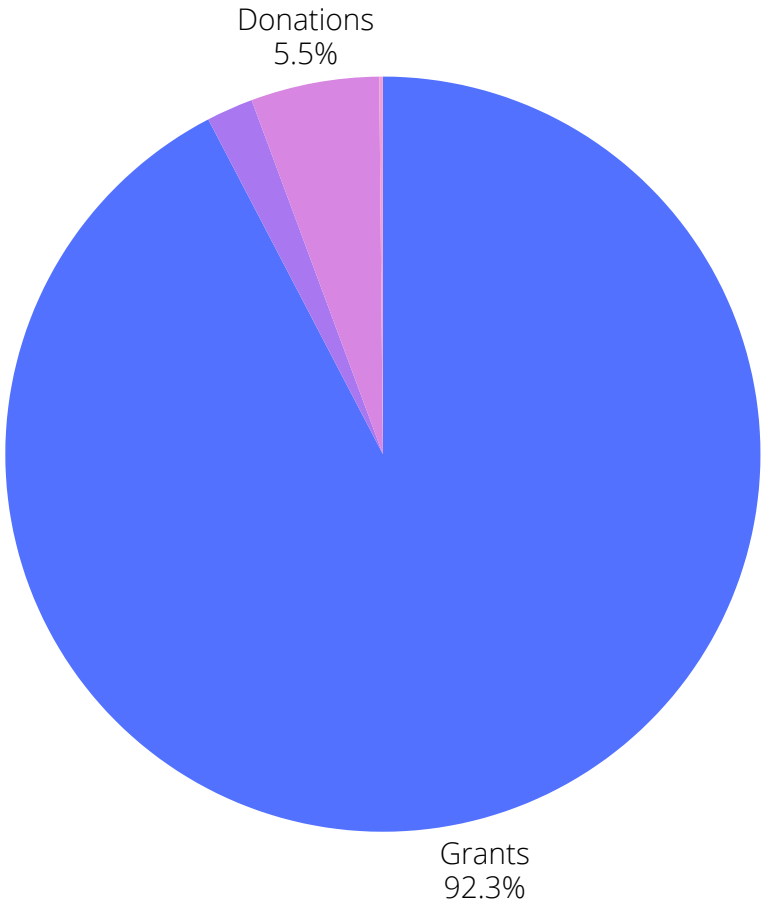
Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Protecting Communities, Fighting Crime

BIG LOTTERY FUND
LOTTERY FUNDED

acre ACTION WITH COMMUNITIES IN RURAL ENGLAND

FINANCES

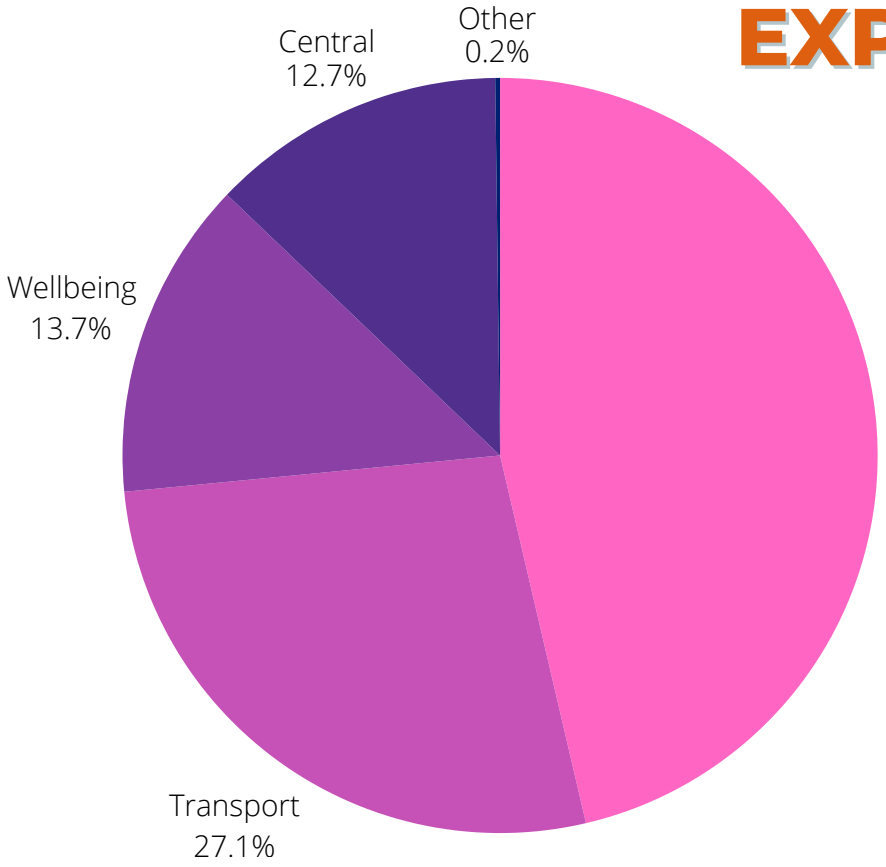
INCOME



- £867,132 - **Grants**
- £18,781 - **Earned Income**
- £51,623 - **Donations**
- £1,446 - **Other**

Total: £938,982

EXPENDITURE



- £431,591 - **Poverty**
- £252,535 - **Transport**
- £127,267 - **Wellbeing**
- £117,926 - **Central**
- £1,900 - **Other**

Total: £931,219



JOIN THE TEAM

BECOME A TRUSTEE

Help to shape the future of Rural Action Derbyshire - join our team of friendly, passionate trustees.

Find out more at ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk or contact Beverley Parker, CEO at b.parker@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Rural Action DERBYSHIRE

KEY PEOPLE

STAFF

Beverley Parker - CEO
Emily Brailsford - Project Officer, The Willow Project
Paula Dealtry - Project Assistant, Wheels to Work
Kevin Fleming - Sales Assistant, Wheels to Work - *Joined 4 April 2022*
Alan Griggs - Lead Rural Chaplain - *Transferred 31 March 2021*
Christabel Holland - Executive Assistant - *Left 23 August 2021*
Laura Mitchell - Project Manager, Wheels to Work
Samantha Mumby-Harrison - Project Coordinator, Batch Cook
Becky Newton - Project Officer, Wheels to Work
Iona Peat - Rural Services Assistant - *Joined 11 April 2022*
Skye Peat - Membership & Events Assistant
Joanne Peck - Coordinator, Feeding Derbyshire & FAAD
Sally Salisbury - Finance Manager
Emma Simpson - Marketing & Administration Manager
Helena Stubbs - Community Buildings Advisor
Claire Symonds - Suicide Awareness Training Project Manager
George White - Marketing Executive - *Joined 1 January 2022*
Charlotte Winterbottom - Policy & Partnerships Officer - *Joined 13 December 2021*



VOLUNTEERS

Rev'd Prof Stella Mills - Associate Rural Chaplain - *Left 31 March 2022*
Alison Ball - Associate Rural Chaplain - *Left 31 March 2022*
Alison Fletcher - Associate Rural Chaplain - *Left 31 March 2022*
Roger Slater - Farmers Support Team - *Left 31 March 2022*
John Eley - Farmers Support Team - *Left 31 March 2022*
Alan Phillips - Farmers Support Team - *Left 31 March 2022*

TRUSTEES

Roger Bennett - *Appointed 8 February 2022*
Fiona Brookes - *Appointed 8 February 2022*
Valerie Broom
Philip Coates
Grahame Gilbert - *Resigned 17 August 2021*
John Haynes
Julie Hirst
William Tudor Jones - *Appointed 8 February 2022*
Emma Monkman - *Resigned 27 August 2021*
Angela Montacute
Simon Taylor
Richard Walsh
Amy Wheelton



SUPPORT OUR WORK



BECOME A MEMBER

- It's FREE to join
- Be the first to hear about campaigns, appeals, news and events
- Give us feedback on our services
- Vote at our AGM
- Stand for election as a Trustee/Director

BECOME A SUBSCRIBER

Subscribe to our newsletter to keep up-to-date with all of our amazing work - with regular emails sent directly to your inbox.



MAKE A DONATION

Help to fund our vital work with one-off or regular donations. Every pledge goes directly towards helping our work, and donations can even be made to a specific project that you wish to support.

VISIT RURALACTIONDERBYSHIRE.ORG.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

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on YouTube - Rural Action Derbyshire

Rural Action DERBYSHIRE

acre network member

Wheels to Work Derbyshire

DIGITAL SUPPORT DERBYSHIRE

THE WILLOW PROJECT

Fit for the Future VILLAGE & COMMUNITY HALLS

Feeding Derbyshire

ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

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info@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

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