



Hello, my name is Steve Collingwood and I am the elected Chair of the Northowram Scarecrow Committee. My first report for this the 9th Northowram Scarecrow Event AGM, covering 2019/2020 is perhaps somewhat different than would normally be expected. As there will be no open meeting this year this report will be available on our website.

2020 to date has been an unbelievable extraordinary year, with the unprecedented cancellation of our event being a small dot on a very large picture of uncertainty and sorrow. Our thoughts are with those who have lost someone to this dreadful disease and we, the committee, would like to pay tribute to the many front line and key workers.

I would like to thank the Scarecrow Event Team, including the committee members and volunteers, for their support of the event and to myself in these difficult times, but it is our intention that 2021 will make us more determined to ensure 'the show goes on'.

The weekend has become more and more popular with both members of our local community and visitors from the Calderdale region and surrounding areas alike. The event is primarily designed to bring the village and wider community together to join in all the fun, but it also raises valuable funds that help keep the event running each year, as well as helping various village amenities and groups. Obviously with the cancellation of the 2020 event no funds were raised, and we also had some set costs that were unavoidable prior to the shutdown happening. Therefore, we are not in a position to offer any funding for 2020 other than that which was side-lined from 2019 to the tennis club. With their agreement this will be paid in two tranches, firstly in September 2020 and finally after next years event in May 2021. To date over £16,000 has been distributed to many causes within Northowram.

As was mentioned in last year's AGM chairs report the Scarecrow Caravan/Information Centre needs to be replaced due to the deteriorating condition of the existing vehicle. We are initiating a fund raising campaign to help us purchase a replacement in time for the 2021 event, which will also need to be branded with our logo and signage. Please watch for the announcements and any contributions would be gratefully received.

On a brighter note, our new initiative for 2019/2020, the new annual Community Award to be awarded to an individual or group that have made an outstanding contribution to the village was announced back in May. The inaugural winner was Mr James Shepherd, who fought off stiff competition from several other deserving nominees.

We will be launching the second year awards in the autumn, and all suggestions for nominees will be most welcome. Any nominees from year one will be allowed to be put forward again as well as any new ones, which I presume may include people coming to the fore through the Covid 19 crisis.

The 'Aims and Objectives' of the NSE remain the same, as do the 'Roles and Responsibilities' currently held by Committee members. These are available in this AGM booklet as well as downloadable from our website at [www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk](http://www.northowramscarecrows.co.uk)

We would like to invite any business or individual to become the main event sponsor for 2021. If you are interested or you know of a business or individual who may be interested in sponsoring this annual event please contact us on [northowramscarecrows@hotmail.com](mailto:northowramscarecrows@hotmail.com)

For 2020/2021 we officially welcome Phil Ward from The Windmill Tavern on to the committee.

Lastly, a reminder of the Armistice Day Service 2020 will take place on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10.50am for a 10.55 start with readings and collective remembrance of those involved in conflict past and present.

Once again as my first Chairs report closes; my grateful thanks go to all those who have and those who continue to contribute to the success of this event.