

CVCLT news August 2021

Summer holidays have meant that we're a little late in the month in letting you have the latest news from Calder Valley CLT. But here's our news now. Better late than never...

Our Executive Manager

We're pleased to say that we have now undertaken the short-listing for the CVCLT's first member of staff. Interviews are taking place in early September and we're looking forward to meeting the shortlisted candidates then.

Needless to say, we'll let you know the outcome of the interviews in our next newsletter.

Works under way at Fielden

We are contracting with a specialist firm of builders, Aura, who particularly focus on heritage buildings, to undertake necessary maintenance work at Fielden Hall and the two residential buildings next door. The work will begin very early in September and includes repointing, reroofing and work to the guttering. If you've looked up at all the angles of the Fielden Hall's roof, you'll understand why we need to keep it in good nick!

This is work which we identified as necessary before we purchased the Fielden Acre land and buildings earlier this year, and money was budgeted for it when we ran the community share issue.

Hebden Bridge Signal box

We do seem (finally!) to be making real progress in our bid to take the decommissioned heritage HB signal box into community ownership. We held a useful site visit with several representatives of Network Rail earlier in August and have another meeting arranged for September 2nd. We have also just been sent proposed heads of terms from Network Rail for what we anticipate will be a 25 year leasehold of the building.

Once the legal side of things is finished and the building is in our custody, there will then be plenty of volunteering opportunities. We will also be recruiting a Heritage Project Officer early in the New Year, for a nine-month post to develop community engagement with the signal box project. This is funded through National Lottery Heritage Fund and the wonderfully helpful Railway Heritage Trust.

Zero carbon

You may already have heard that Calderdale council and the Community Foundation for Calderdale have together launched a new Climate Emergency/Carbon Zero grant fund, with £1m available for voluntary organisations and community groups to bid for. We think this is an excellent initiative... and it perhaps won't surprise you to learn that we are proposing to put in a funding bid for the first round of applications (which closes in mid-Sep).

Our application will be to fund specialist advice on how we could convert two currently empty flats above shops in the centre of Hebden Bridge into very energy-

efficient homes. We think bringing empty properties above shops back into use as people's homes is a really good idea for all sorts of reasons, and we hope that this project will be one we can progress. More news later.

Meeting the tenants

Tea, cake and biscuits were the order of the day on August 9th, when we arranged an informal session with our tenants from Birks Court in Walsden. (We booked the next-door Walsden parish church foyer for the occasion).

It's important that we listen properly to our tenants and try if at all possible to make their homes as good as we can for them. One idea which emerged over the cakes was the idea of improving front door security measures in the bungalows, and we hope to get to work on this shortly.

Remembering two of our members

We are very sorry to have to record the recent passing of two members of CVCLT.

Steve Sweeney was one of the first people to join up as a CLT member back in 2015. Steve was for several years one of Todmorden's elected councillors on Calderdale council, and was a strong supporter of our work.

John Ludlam is also very much missed. John was one of the many local individuals who were prepared to invest their own money in our work in the recent community share issue. John's commitment to the CLT was one we very much appreciated.

They are both badly missed. Thank you to them both for their active engagement in upper Calder Valley community life.