



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

adapting to change  
to support others



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# Chairman's Report

**Welcome to our 2020/21 annual report which showcases the great work that the Hamilton Davies Trust (HDT) has achieved throughout the year.**

By the time our former financial year ended in April 2020, the whole world was in a state of shock and facing huge changes to their lives, due to the onset of the Covid pandemic. Many homes became workspaces and for our team that was no exception. Thanks to the good technical support we have in-house the team were very quickly backed up and equipped ready to work from home by the time our new financial year commenced.



Weekly team meetings from home

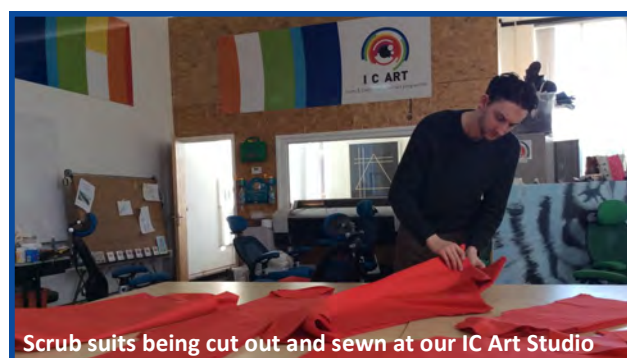
It is with great pride therefore that I introduce this report as, when faced with a year that we have never experienced before, our team have responded with speed and enthusiasm to adapt to the changes and new ways of working required to enable us to continue to work with our partners and support the community in whatever way was required.

The fantastic communication links that we have with the community, it's many groups, volunteers and businesses enabled us to very quickly get in touch to find out what support they needed and to offer our help where we could. As well as the £0.5m investment we made throughout the year, we also committed many hours of staff time to support our local and the wider community as needs arose as a result of the pandemic.



Neil McArthur, HDT Chairman

In the first quarter of the year our immediate course of action was to turn our thoughts to supporting the need for additional PPE in the national effort to provide more protective items for frontline workers.



Scrub suits being cut out and sewn at our IC Art Studio

Turning our Art Studio into a location for the cutting out and assembly of scrub suits meant we could support the volunteer group 'Salford Scrubees'. We were also able to draw on our partnership with TalkTalk and our relationship with volunteers to swiftly secure the lower floor of the TalkTalk building in Cadishead and provide additional hands to help assemble protective visors. The rapid response from the community was unbelievable.



Volunteers assemble PPE visors at TalkTalk, Cadishead



Our partnership working and support of the Rotary Club of Irlam, Friends of Irlam Station (FIRST) and the MU Foundation continued throughout the year as before enabling them, and us, to deliver even more to the community.

Our IC ART programme, whilst unable to operate in the same way with social distancing and lockdowns in place, was still able to produce a few unique 3D art pieces. Due to the many hours gained by not travelling to work, I was fortunate to be able to get involved with some of the art projects myself and engage my engineering skills to help create some sculptures for Station Park, designed and later painted by our artist Rachelle.



Giant match box

We cannot underestimate the value of volunteers and how much more we can deliver with their help. This year, unable to arrange group litter picks as usual, we built on the fact that individuals were being encouraged to get out for their daily exercise, and promoted litter picking whilst exercising by offering the equipment for local households and also school class bubbles to use to do their own litter picks. This proved very popular and is helping to keep the district tidier than ever.



Local family help litter pick on the lanes near Chat Moss

We were pleased to see plans drawn up and funding secured ready for the commencement of the Rixton-with-Glazebrook Community Hall large refurbishment works to bring a nearly 50 year old building up to modern day standards.

With lockdown and Covid restrictions in place and our planned iTea & Biscuits sessions and Signal Box tours having to be cancelled, we decided to call on our IT skills within the team to produce online support videos and virtual tours. We also produced career videos in support of Irlam & Cadishead Academy's new mentorship programme. More on all of these later in the report.


To bring some cheer to an otherwise gloomy year, we were delighted to be able to support the Royal British Legion's annual Lamppost Poppy Appeal. We were pleased to be able to once again install Christmas Lights throughout the district, adding even more lights this year on Station Park to bring a bit of extra sparkle.

The turn out for our annual Elf Trailer, pulled by the steam engine 'Old Faithful', was even more popular than previous years, with schools lining the streets in their class bubbles and the live-streamed video receiving over 10K views. Given the very difficult year everyone had gone through such joyous occasions as this one were a great release!



Elf Trailer

Looking back on this challenging year I am very proud of our small team at HDT and what they have achieved and look forward to seeing what the year ahead brings.

  
**Neil McArthur**

# Facts & Figures



£10.8m

We have invested more than £10 million to support the district across our four areas of focus covering Community, Education, Recreation and Regeneration



Over **£1.33m** worth of grants provided to community groups and projects



£599 K

EDUCATION  
GRANTS



Over **£988k** to recreational groups



Supported regeneration projects worth over **£4.1m**



# A summary of our progress to date



HOUR  
on  
HOUR  
&  
DAY  
after  
DAY  
of  
SUPPORT



Received support of  
more than **15,000**  
hours from local  
volunteers, including  
at our COVID support  
projects and various  
Corporate Social  
Responsibility  
programmes



# Covid-19 Response



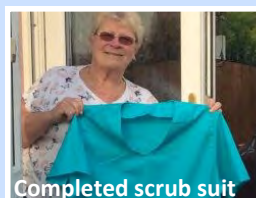
Salford Royal Hospital frontline workers

With the need for support to assemble much needed PPE for hospital front line workers becoming evident, HDT quickly drew on their community connections to organise some help. Working in coordination with Dave Pike, our HDT's Operation's Manager Tony Prescott arranged a suitable working space at the TalkTalk building in Cadishead and mustered as many volunteers as possible. The response was unbelievable with 60 kind volunteers offering help, resulting in the assembly of 35,000 protective visors.



HDT's Tony Prescott with two of the many volunteers

Support given to purchase fabric and a cutting machine for volunteer group the 'Salford Scrubees' resulted in hundreds of scrub suits being produced and gratefully received by frontline workers.



Completed scrub suit

Following the completion of the successful visor initiative, HDT were called on for a second time to engage volunteers to help in another project. Tammy Pike from the Northern Care Alliance (NCA) contacted HDT to ask if we could help with labelling bags needed for Covid-19 hospital patient's personal belongings. Volunteers from the previous project were contacted and several offered their help to work in shifts to complete the 15,000 bags required for patients who were in hospitals across Manchester and for those families whose loved ones had sadly passed away.



Volunteer labelling bags

Seeing so many bags laid out was particularly daunting and moving for the volunteers and HDT are very proud of each and every one of them for helping out with this important task. Louise Simpson, NCA Group Senior Nurse, who was responsible for the bags, commented: *"A massive thank you to the volunteers. I would never have been able to sort out this much-needed item without their help. Their dedication cannot be underestimated and the NCA staff are hugely appreciative."*

HDT were also grateful to local business Kingsland for donating boxes and tape for the completed bags, as well as tea, coffee and biscuits. With local business 'Cakes by P' also donating cakes the volunteers were well and truly fed and watered!

Another area of assistance required during Covid, was the need for bicycles for use by NHS workers. Fortunately we were able to help with this request also - see page 10.



## Working in partnership with local and national organisations is a key driver to our regeneration programme

Partnership working is fundamental to HDT's regeneration programme, and we were delighted to be a part of the Mosslands Connect project with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT). In partnership with HDT, Salford and Wigan Councils, LWT were able to secure £670,000 of funding from Biffa to promote awareness and access to the Mosslands in our district and beyond.



HDT also partnered with LWT and Peel Holdings to facilitate funding of a project to open up Little Woollen Moss.



The Friends of Irlam Linear Park were able to complete the pathway improvements needed within the Park to make this hidden green gem even more accessible to the public. HDT have been delighted to see the increased usage of the Park by members of the local community, enjoying walking, cycling and jogging.



Improvements have continued at Irlam Station with the Signal Box, Signal Yard and Station Park all being further enhanced during the year. Unfortunately, due to restrictions, the Signal Box was not available for public access, however HDT and the Friends of Irlam Station volunteers are excited to share this fantastic new attraction as soon as it is safe to do so.



We continued to partner with the Rixton-with-Glazebrook Community Hall Committee and are pleased that plans have now been drawn up for their project to improve and modernise the old and tired hall facilities.



HDT have continued with ongoing projects within the district including the shop signs project along Liverpool Road; funding gardening and landscaping around Irlam Station, Station Park and the Cadishead embankment; writing and producing new heritage boards, and supporting the Manchester Tech Trust in their drive to bring technology and enterprise to the area.



**Supporting the community is at the heart of what we do and we are especially proud to have contributed to a wide variety of projects this year**

At the start of the year, HDT were pleased to support the many community volunteers who worked tirelessly to make sets of 'scrubs' and face visors for NHS workers, in partnership with Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and TalkTalk.



Volunteers assemble PPE visors at TalkTalk, Cadishead

The Local MAG has been a regular source of information for residents of the district and HDT has continued to support the MAG team with both grant payments, fundraising and admin support.



HDT once again partnered with the Rotary Club of Irlam to deliver more to the community. Appreciated more than ever before has been their In Bloom programme and beautiful display of colour throughout the district. This year we also worked together on a project to replace the community Digital Information Board.



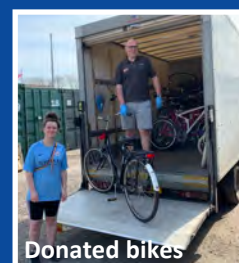
Rotary In Bloom planters - Liverpool Rd, Cadishead

Our IC Art programme continued throughout the year with imaginative new 3D pieces being installed on Station Park, including a second Hobbit House, steelworkers, a family of pigs and a strikingly large box of matches. New Christmas lights were also installed as part of HDT's ongoing Christmas programme.



New Christmas Lights being installed on Station Park

When we heard that NHS keyworkers were in need of bikes, we answered the call for help and provided 30 bikes to the Nationwide Cycling Academy to be refurbished for NHS key workers around Greater Manchester. The bikes, were previously donated to HDT by local residents to go to HMP Risley's Chains project who we work closely with. Unable to access the prison due to lockdown restrictions, it was good to put the bikes to an alternate good use.



Donated bikes

We have been pleased to support various community groups with small grants throughout the year, including funding for activity packs for the residents of Heartly Green Care Home and the Together @M44 community group; repairs to the bell at St John the Baptist Church; contributing towards a play about Chat Moss, and support for the Play Streets scheme during school holidays.

As community groups start to open up their activities again post Covid, we look forward to engaging with them moving forward.





# Recreation

**Our continued drive to support the community with all types of recreational activities throughout the district helps promote positive health and well-being**

Access to recreational activities was severely curtailed throughout much of 2020/21, however HDT was pleased to support various groups as they began to open up again.



IYSS Cycling Project

Cycling has been a freely available activity enjoyed by many this year. Our partnership with the Salford City Council and the IYSS cycling project meant that numerous bicycles were checked and refurbished to ensure they were in a road-worthy condition for their young users.

Station Wheelers cycle group was formed from local cyclists, keen to explore not only our local district, but also further afield with weekly rides. Using Irlam Station as a starting point, they think nothing of cycling 30 - 50 km in a day. The group recognised the value of the cycle hub at Irlam Station and HDT partnered with them to help promote this facility.



Irlam Tigers Football Club are one of the newer clubs to the district and we were pleased to support the enthusiastic new committee with a contribution towards pitch hire costs for both training sessions and matches.



Irlam Tigers Football Club

We recognise that not all recreational activities are sport-based and were pleased to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Irlam Brownies with a contribution towards their national affiliation fees. Like many clubs and organisations, their fund-raising opportunities have been greatly diminished in the last year.



The Irlam Royalties committee have strived to keep this very popular group dancing following the lockdown, and HDT were one of many community organisations that contributed to keep their much-valued bus on the road this year.



Irlam Royalties tour bus

## HDT has continued to support the education providers throughout the district

The HDT team would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts from all the education providers within our district and beyond throughout this challenging year. From home-schooling, providing nourishing meals, and the in-school teaching for the children of keyworkers, through to radical changes in protocol to accommodate social distancing, we think you are all A\*.



Our long-standing partnership programme with Manchester United Foundation continued throughout 2020/21, with the MUF team having to adapt their provision accordingly.

The staff and committee at Rixton-with-Glazebrook Pre-School have strived to continue



to provide a fun and safe setting for children under 5 years of age when guidelines allowed.

As with many Early Years settings, their fund-raising opportunities were greatly limited in the year, and we were able to support them with a contribution towards ongoing rent costs at Glazebrook Methodist Church.

Students from the I&C Academy benefitted from the provision of a number of laptop computers to enable them to continue to work from home throughout the year as required. This initiative was also supported by the Chris Stocks Fund which was set up in 2014 to provide small value grants to support young people in Irlam and Cadishead.



Early Years pupils at Irlam Primary School have access to a much-improved outdoor playground area after significant investment. Access to outdoor play areas is a vital part of Early Years provision.



HDT were delighted to support Salford City Council's education centre at Lledr Hall, where a major refurbishment project has been undertaken to the facilities used as part of the Project 29 programme for vulnerable children from our district and beyond.



# Career Videos / Online Support / Virtual Tours



Drawing on the various IT and media skills we have within the team we produced Careers Videos for Irlam & Cadishead Academy in support of their mentorship programme. We were proud to be able to work with the Academy and local businesses to produce inspiring videos of the career paths of people living and working locally. We hope these will help in some small way to improve the life chances of young people in our local area by aiding them in making choices for their next steps towards employment, apprenticeships and education.



Neil McArthur making a career video for I&C Academy

Unable to host our annual Christmas Carol Concert and Coffee Morning this year due to the pandemic, instead we took our camera and microphone out to the high street to ask local businesses to join in a fun video called 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas'. The result was fantastic and lifted the spirits of those who took part, as well as thousands of spectators and more than 3,000 online viewers.



Local business taking part in Christmas video

Unable to deliver our popular iTea & Biscuits sessions, which provide free digital learning support, this year we turned to offering online step by step lessons covering the use of emails, Zoom, Facetime, online shopping etc to support and enable individuals and community groups, especially the more mature members, to stay in touch from a distance.



Given our Signal Box launch planned for March 2020 had to be cancelled, due to the pandemic, and access to indoor venues was restricted for most of 2020 and into 2021, we decided to make a series of virtual tours. These included the Heritage Hub and Signal Box at Irlam Station and the Wheels of Local Industry display. Live on YouTube these give an interesting taster of what people can look forward to seeing once venues are fully open and accessible once more.



Social Media plays a big part in how we keep in touch with the community. During the early months of Covid, when schools were closed to many children, we produced and shared fun child-friendly activity worksheets and videos to our Facebook postings.



# Heritage Development

Bringing local history to life and more added attractions to Irlam Station's Heritage Hub

HDT are proud of the efforts we have made to bring the history of Irlam and Cadishead out of the archives and into public display. Despite the difficult year it has been we have still managed to add more interest to the Heritage Hub at Irlam Station and to the adjacent gardens and the wonderful Station Park.



Signal Box heritage board

A new heritage board was installed to tell the story of the Signal Box's journey from Keighley in Yorkshire to its present home at Irlam Station.



Heritage Board

Positioned alongside the large 'Wheels of Local Industry' display another heritage board depicts a loco and engines similar to those that were once used at the Steelworks, Soap Works, Partington Coaling Basin and Margarine Works.

The latest pieces of 3D art includes a striking giant matchbox and matches that reflect the Hulme Patent Advertising Match Company which was one of the earlier industries once located near to Irlam Station.



Giant match box



I&C Academy students with their art work



Another impactful art piece was installed this year, having been completed by I&C Academy students just before lockdown. The 17 wooden men depict the workers leaving Irlam Station heading to the Steelworks to start their shift. HDT Chairman Neil McArthur said: *"This is a lovely unique piece of art that brings a smile to those seeing it. It is wonderful that during the design process the students were also able to learn a bit more about the former local Steelworkers from our artist and keen historian Rachelle."*

The Steelworkers art sits adjacent to a second hobbit style house which in itself adds even more magic to Station Park and looks exactly like the sketch design by artist Rachelle.



Hobbit house and Steelmen sketch



# Wider Heritage and Tourism

## Connecting Irlam Station's expanding Heritage Hub with other interesting local destinations on the doorstep

Since opening in 2015, Irlam Station House has developed from a local community hub to a much-loved destination that is now firmly on the map, bringing people from far and wide.

The Heritage Hub aspect of Station House and its surroundings is drawing people to visit time and time again, there is now so much to see.



Signal Box upper floor with its many artefacts on display

Over the past year the Signal Box interior has been enhanced by HDT and the Friends of Irlam Station (FIRST) with lots of interesting rail memorabilia and artefacts added to give a sense of a real working Signal Box. This has become a popular part of the Station's heritage offering and draws people of all ages.



Signal Yard exhibit

Thanks to hours of help from FIRST volunteers, more signals have been added to the Signal Yard exhibit and there is now a vast range for visitors to see and learn about.

As well as developing Irlam Station as a vibrant heritage destination, HDT have also been partnering with other interesting attractions within easy reach of Irlam. Members of our team are on the Chat Moss Heritage Group working closely with the Lancashire Mining Museum, Leigh Spinners Mill, RHS Bridgewater, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Peel Land & Planning to bring them and Irlam Station together to showcase the industrial history of railways, cotton, coal and canals.



Chat Moss

With all these destinations connected by the ecological green heartland that is Chat Moss, there is so much to promote, discover and explore within a 10 mile radius of Irlam Station.



Wheels of Local Industry display

HDT plan to deliver even more heritage to showcase the district's industrial past and will be liaising with local schools and youth groups, volunteers and local businesses to help design and produce more art that brings the area's rich history to life.

Working alongside FIRST volunteers we will be working up and offering exciting guided tours of the Heritage Hub, the station environment with its many art displays, and the wider area.



# Grants & Projects

**£307**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Irlam Brownies**

National affiliation fees

**£186**

## **HDT Managed Projects**

Shop signs along Liverpool Road

**£180**

## **Chat Moss Heritage Group**

Chat Moss powerpoint presentation

**£100**

## **Heartly Green**

Activity fund for residents

**£240**

## **ForViva - Play Streets**

Play Streets scheme for I&C

**£2,000**

## **I&C Academy**

Laptops for home learning

**£3,000**

## **Friends of Irlam Linear Park**

Pathway improvements

**£4,500**

## **Irlam Primary School**

Early Years playground improvements

**£192**

## **HDT Managed Projects**

General ongoing maintenance

**£50**

## **Irlam Royalties**

Keeping the tour bus on the road

**£9,732**

## **HDT Managed Projects**

Landscaping and Gardening in I&C

**£1,000**

## **Irlam Tigers FC**

Pitch hire for matches and training

**£1,614**

## **HDT Managed Projects**

Christmas Lights throughout the district

**£3,000**

## **IYSS Cycle Project**

Refurbishment of children's bikes to ensure road worthiness

**£47,726**

## **HDT Managed Projects**

Irlam Signal Box & Station Park

**£500**

## **Lancashire Mining Museum**

Life and Times of Chat Moss outdoor heritage play

**£195**

## **HDT Managed Projects**

Heritage Boards

**£22,111**

## **Lancashire Wildlife Trust**

Part funded 3rd party Biffa funding for Mosslands Connect

**£10,375**

## **HDT Managed Projects**

IC Art programme

**£5,000**

## **Lledr Hall**

Project 29 for vulnerable children from the district and beyond





**Community**



**Education**



**Recreation**



**Regeneration**

**£800**

**Local Mag**

HDT support for free monthly community magazine

**£2,700**

**RwG Pre-School**

Rent contribution for premises at Glazebrook Church

**£5,886**

**LWT**

Little Woollen Moss project

**£570**

**Salford Scrubees**

Fabric purchase for scrub suit making

**£60,000**

**Manchester Tech Trust**

Technology and enterprise to Greater Manchester

**£100**

**St John the Baptist C of E**

Repairs to the church bell

**£12,500**

**Manchester United Foundation**

Partnership project in I&C schools

**£200**

**Station Wheelers**

Irlam cycle hub promotion

**£430**

**Rachel Robinson Interiors**

Fabric cutter for scrub suit making

**£95**

**Together @ M44**

Activity packs for children

**£6,100**

**Rotary Club of Irlam**

Partnership project to help deliver more for I&C

**TOTAL £201,390**







## LOOKING AHEAD

Adapting to change over the past year has shown us all how very important communication and good working relationships are. Our connections with partners across all sectors have proved invaluable in enabling us to continue to support the local community in a different, but no less valuable and effective way.

In the year ahead we aim to use our new-found knowledge and skills, alongside tried and tested ones, to deliver even more to the community that we all love.

The drive, energy and kindness that the local community shows for each other has been even more inspiring in the past year. Whilst group working has been limited, we have found new ways of engaging and working with **Volunteers** on an individual or household basis. We will continue to embrace and build on this willingness to help to facilitate others to improve and add value to the area.

As a **Grant Giving** charity, we will continue to encourage local grant applications and will look at these on a regular basis and support these where possible in the most appropriate way. We have had increased success with helping groups by promoting match funding to help leverage value from other funders and local businesses. We will be building on this approach to enable community projects to access as much support as possible.

We will work with partners to install a new **Digital Information Board** to help promote local community groups and their activities.





There are still great strides to be made to help further showcase the huge amount of **Heritage** in the district. Building on what has already been achieved, we will continue to work with the Friends of Irlam Station to promote visitors to the area and develop local guided tours and walks to share what else there is to discover in the district and beyond. Further heritage boards will also be produced. To help put the district firmly on the map and bring tourism and leisure to the broader area we will also continue our partnership working with the **Chat Moss Heritage Group**.

We will be looking to expand our **IC ART** programme, and use of our art studio, to broaden our scope for supporting creative activity within the area.

**Youth Provision** has long been a priority for HDT, therefore we will continue working with all partners to develop coordinated activity that supports young people in the district.

Our commitment of funds and staff time to the Rixton-with-Glazebrook **Community Hall** refurbishment project will see this much-loved hall offering more modern facilities from Autumn 2021 and beyond for all to enjoy.

Following on from our success in supporting the **I&C Academy** with careers videos, we will continue to offer our help and link with the business community to help young people as they seek their career path.

The HDT Team are keen to open the doors of Hamilton Davies House to visitors once again and will be advertising the fact as soon as we are able. Whilst some small groups have been able to use our community space in a Covid-safe way, we know that many larger groups are keen to utilise the space to come together to enjoy meetings and activities. We are all looking forward to seeing the community thrive as it did before Covid, and we will be doing all we can to support this happening.



[www.hamiltondavies.org.uk](http://www.hamiltondavies.org.uk)

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