

HUMBIE PARISH and COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Produced bi-annually in April and November

NOVEMBER 2020



Humbie Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Scottish Charity No SC016765

Minister's Letter

I hope very much that you are well and healthy. Many of us have not met in a very long time, and, as it looks right now, it might yet be a while before gatherings, as we used to know, will be possible again. Despite the strange time in which we find ourselves, I have been encouraged and inspired by the huge outpouring of kindness and community spirit across the parish: the dedicated support systems in all the villages, with so many volunteers helping others who were, or still are, confined to their homes; the old and new connections forged between neighbours and friends; a rediscovery of just how important our relationships with each other are. Many of us have also gained a new appreciation of how vulnerable we all are, and of how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the world.

Among the things upholding me at this time are the conversations with many of you, on the phone, by video call, or often – masked – in front of a shop or café, as well as near-weekly online get-togethers with my colleagues from across East Lothian and often further afield, in which we can discuss ideas and experiences, build better relationships with each other, and offer one another support, encouragement and mutual accountability. I also enjoy watching the changing seasons in our garden and the woods around us: really enjoying nature, and what it offers us, throughout the year.

With colourful autumn leaves falling, we are already looking towards Advent time. Traditionally, the weeks of Advent are shaped by the themes of peace, hope, joy and love. For many of us, these themes seem to be far from our minds, in the current circumstances. And yet, in small – and some bigger – ways, we can find them even in this unusual time. I see love in the way we can reach out to one another, care for each other, at this time seemingly more than ever before. I see joy in the way our son encounters the world: excited at pretty much everything he sees or hears or feels. I find hope in the creativity we all show in trying out new ways to do things. And I find peace in the faith that we're not alone: that God is with us, even in this strange time, even through the restrictions and the loneliness and isolation and pain. As we approach Advent, we look to the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, again: even at the strangest and most difficult of times.

Please stay in touch – and if you'd like any support, or would like to have a coffee via zoom, please give me a call!

Anikó

Services

As you can see from our service list, for the next couple of months, we will continue with two monthly in-person services at Humbie Church, for all who would like to come together in a church building for worship, and especially all who have difficulty in accessing the online services. The services are a bit shorter than usual, and follow all safety guidelines. For instance, we can only accommodate a maximum of 38 people safely, all need to wear face coverings (unless they are medically exempt) and we currently can't sing in these services, but enjoy listening to our organists playing.

Many of us are very anxious about larger gatherings at this time, and nobody should in any way feel pressured to attend these services in person before they feel ready to do so. All of us have different circumstances and needs. A

video recording of the services is available on our church website from Sunday afternoon, and audio recordings are available on CD on request. Participating in a service online, or through a sound recording, is worship just as much as doing so in a church building.

On the Sundays when we do not offer a service in the church, a pre-recorded online service is available on the website from Sunday morning, as during lockdown. These services include contributions from people around the parish: readings, music, reflections and prayers, and offer us an opportunity for more creativity in our worship. Audio recordings of all services are available on CD. If you would like to receive one, please contact Jim Hunter.

The Kirk Session has also decided to celebrate Holy Communion in the pre-recorded services only at this time, simply to ensure everyone's safety. Currently, we celebrate Holy Communion in these services on the last Sunday of each month – simply have some bread and wine ready when you join in with the video or audio service.

Stewarding and Reading

Not everybody is currently able to attend in person services, so numbers in our welcome team and on our readers' list are somewhat diminished. If you would like to help with stewarding at some of our services – taking names at the door, and guiding people to available seats – or read the lessons during a service, please contact Liz Hunter, who would very much like to hear from you.

Remembrance Sunday

Due to the current situation, we sadly won't be able to gather as a whole community around the War Memorial this Remembrance Sunday. We hope to be able to have a restricted Act of Remembrance instead, limited to those directly involved in the service only. Thanks to the generous assistance of Lothian Broadband, it will be filmed and livestreamed on 8 November at 10.55am, at facebook.com/humbiekirk (no facebook account needed to watch), and available afterwards on our website. Many thanks also to our Community Councillors for their support. We hope you'll be understanding of these restrictions, which are in line with Scottish Government and East Lothian Council guidelines, and in place to keep us all safe.

Getting connected

In addition to this newsletter and our website (humbiechurch.org), which is updated regularly, we send out a weekly news email, and have a youtube channel and facebook, twitter and Instagram accounts. If you use any of these channels, please 'like' and 'follow' us, and so find out about upcoming services and events.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for supporting the East Lothian Foodbank again, to the Hub for hosting our donations box, and to Margo for coordinating it all. We've been able to deliver two shopping trolleys full of donations of food and toiletries, to help people in need at this time. Thank you all very much!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Advent Music

While we currently can't sing together in our service in the churches, we can do so in our online services. For some of our Advent services - especially the Lessons and Carols service, and our Nativity service, we would like to form a virtual choir. If you would like to join in, please contact us by 10 November.

A Parish Advent Calendar

We would like to make an online advent calendar this December, which can be watched each day, being festive, informative, thought provoking, biblical, musical, or amusing, or all of these, to give some seasonal spirit during the build up to Christmas. For all who are unable to watch online, a DVD or similar will be available.

With this in mind, we are looking for 24 volunteers from across the parishes to make a single 5-minute video clip for our daily advent calendar. Technical advice can be offered, and we could even film you on your doorstep if necessary!

So if you have a favourite Christmas recipe to demonstrate or a Christmas song to sing, a poem to recite or story to tell, or perhaps a Christmas flower arrangement or decoration idea to share, please get in touch with Claire Gobourn (YBS Church) by email, to state your interest and suggestion to: Family.gobourn@gmail.com, by 10 November 2020. If you would like to receive a DVD, or a printed transcription of the Advent Calendar, please also let us know.

A different Nativity

This year, we'll have a very different kind of Nativity. Because of the current situation, it is sadly not possible to have our usual Nativity service on Christmas Eve at Humble Church. However, we will have a Nativity service that afternoon nonetheless - just in a different way from usual, to keep us all safe.

For our Nativity play, we're planning to film all actors individually (or in family groups), and then put it all together into our very own Nativity movie, which will premiere on Christmas Eve.

Costumes, props and technical help are of course available.

Equally, we hope to have a brilliant choir, as we would usually in church, although this year it will be a virtual one.

If you would like to participate in either the Nativity play or the choir, please contact us by 10 November. If you would like to receive a DVD of the service, please also let us know.

Messy Church: Advent Craft Bag

We'll be handing out Messy Church craft bags for Advent to children in the parish. If you would like to receive one for your children or grandchildren, please let us know.

Journeying through Advent

During December, keep an eye on the window of the Humble Hub, for some surprises...

Our Church Family

Baptism

19 January, Carter Christopher Coutts, son of Chris and Samantha Coutts, Upper Keith Cottages, Humble

Weddings

7 March, Edward Kaye and Anniek Sluiman, Edinburgh

11 October, Jennifer Edward and Billy Gordon, Shillinghill, Humble

Deaths

1 November 2019, John Mair, of Newmains, Humbie, longstanding elder of Humbie Church

9 September 2020, Al Beck, Humbie, dedicated Community Councillor

Services

All in-person services take place at 9.30am in Humbie Church, and will be led by Anikó unless otherwise specified. They are also all subject to Government regulations: please check the church website and notice board at the Hub for notices! The online services can be watched at humbiechurch.org/worship.

November

01.11. Service at Humbie Church

08.11. *if restrictions permit:* Remembrance Sunday: 10.55am, Act of Remembrance (restricted to those directly involved in the service) - livestreamed at www.facebook.com/humbiekirk

15.11. pre-recorded online service

22.11. Service at Humbie Church, led by the Rev Leslie Morrison

29.11. pre-recorded online service with Holy Communion (1 Advent Sunday)

December

06.12. Service at Humbie Church (2 Advent Sunday)

13.12. pre-recorded online service with Lessons and Carols (3 Advent Sunday)

20.12. Service at Humbie Church (4 Advent Sunday)

20.12. 4pm, Blue Christmas service at Yester Church

24.12. 4pm, pre-recorded online Nativity service

24.12. 11.30pm, Watchnight service at Humbie Church, led by Janice Dagg

25.12. pre-recorded online service for Christmas Day

27.12. pre-recorded online service with Holy Communion

January

03.01. Service at Humbie Church

10.01. pre-recorded online service

17.01. Service at Humbie Church

24.01. pre-recorded online service

31.01. pre-recorded online service with Holy Communion.

LIST OF ELDERS

Session Clerk

Liz Hunter

2 Leaston Farm Cottages

Elizabeth Bayne-Jardine

Hattonhill

Alex Campbell

Keith Marischal

David Cunningham

East Peaston

Janice Dagg

Saltoun Station, Pencaitland

Treasurer

Margo Hodge

Humbie Mill

George Pate

Stobshiel Mains

Max Ward

Stobshiel House

Sandy Wilson

Shillinghill

Scottish Poppy Appeal 2020

In this year's exceptional circumstances and with the current restrictions on face to face services, Humble Kirk will not be making a separate collection on behalf of Poppy Scotland, but instead will support our Community's collection which will take place as usual in The Hub from where you are invited to pick up your poppy and contribute to Poppy Scotland's vital, life-changing services for the Armed Forces community.

Alternatively, donations may be made on-line at 'www.poppyscotland.org.uk'.

Presbytery Plan and Local Church Review

Thank you to everyone from the congregation and community who came to the meeting in the village hall on 12 March to discuss the proposals for Humble contained in the draft Presbytery Plan and give their views. These were incorporated in the Kirk Session's response to the draft plan and submitted to Presbytery.

Presbytery has agreed that Humble with YBS should have its delayed Local Church Review before the Presbytery Plan is finalised, particularly since the information reflected in the draft plan was considerably out of date. On 17 June, representatives from Humble and YBS took part in a preparatory meeting with the Local Church Review team online and we have prepared the documentation for Humble that was required.

The next step is an in-person meeting of the two Kirk Sessions and the Local Church Review team. Current regulations for the Coronavirus pandemic, however, mean that a meeting of the size required has not yet been possible. An online meeting on such an issue would not give people the opportunity to contribute and engage. We will have an in-person meeting as soon as we can, and will keep everyone updated.

Finance Report

Humble Church has faced the same challenges as other Churches because of COVID19, our last Sunday Service, held in the church, was 15th March. Although during the six-month period we have enjoyed online church services, there has been an impact on our finances, because we have not been meeting on a weekly basis. Although there have been some savings - power and heating costs - we still have other overhead costs to pay.

Some congregation members have set up 'direct payments' into the church account, and made one off payments this has been very much appreciated, thank you.

If you would be interested in setting up a direct payment or would like more information on other ways of donating, please get in touch with Alex Campbell or myself.

Margo Hodge

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Humble Helps

As the number of Covid infections continues to rise and restrictions tighten and as the furlough scheme winds down our local self-help initiatives are being continued:

- If you need to self-isolate or are required to quarantine - because you have returned from certain countries, are symptomatic, share a home or have been in contact with an infected person - our volunteers remain available to help with shopping and collection of prescriptions from either Pathhead or Haddington – contact Margo Hodge (01875 833637) or Frank Kirwan (07768 996382) or email us at humblehelp20@gmail.com.
- The **Humblehelps Fund** remains open to support any Humble residents who experience financial hardship as a result of the pandemic. Email humblehelpsfund@gmail.com for more information and details of how to apply. Your information will remain confidential to the fund's independent trustees.

Al Beck

Al passed away in early September after a year battling cancer, an illness which few suspected as he went about his wide range of community activities until a few days before his death. His late foray into music, recording 'P*****g in the Wind', a rewording of the Bob Dylan classic, lamenting East Lothian Council's repeated rejection of community demands for a lower speed limit through the village, can only have helped in securing the offer of an eighteen month trial of a 30mph limit a few days after he died.

Al's portfolio of community interests was wide – he was one of the founders of Humbie Box Office; a member of the Community Council for more than twenty years; a trustee of DLX Community Benefit Trust (the windfarm fund); one of the instigators of our local broadband system and the First Responders group; the initial energy behind the Humbiehelps community initiative; the 'fixer' behind Mavis Hall corporate events; a dame in Humbie Players Christmas pantomimes; and latterly Morag's trusty lieutenant in the Hub. And much more.

Al and I knew surprisingly little about each other, but I counted him a friend. A friend is not just someone you like, but someone you can be yourself with; someone you trust and respect; someone you would want to have in your lifeboat. Al was all those to me - and to many others. But, in addition to that, he, with his wife Janet's support, had a greater impact on the community in which he lived than anyone I have come across. Humbie is a much more vibrant and viable community because of Al. Few of us will deserve such an epitaph. We are poorer for his passing - but richer not just for his time amongst us, but for the way he chose to spend it. Thank you, Al

DLX Community Benefit Trust

Humbie was represented on the DLX Board of Trustees by Al Beck in his capacity as one of Humbie's Community Councillors. That role has now been assumed by Frank Kirwan. Henry Gibson, the long-standing chair of DLX will step down at the year-end having moved to darkest England to be nearer his family. At its September meeting, the Trust approved a grant-in-principle of £100,000 towards the redevelopment of Oxtou War Memorial Hall into a community hub with a wide range of facilities. The grant is conditional on match-funding being obtained from other sources. More information about DLX, details of how to apply, information requirements etc can be found at <http://www.dunlaw.org> – to which a case study by John Phelan on the restoration of Humbie Kirk Bridge has just been added.

Frank Kirwan

'Soupersnack Lunches'

Our Soupersnack lunches start again on Wednesday 4th November. We will hopefully continue until the end of February. We will contact everyone who received the lunch during the summer. If you would like to receive a lunch or you know of anyone who would like to have the lunch delivered by volunteers please get in touch with Margo Hodge (833 637) humbiemill@btinternet.com or Rab Sneddon (833 391) robertsneddon01@gmail.com

If you have an hour to spare at lunchtime on a Wednesday and would like to deliver lunches, please contact us or come along to the village hall at 12.15 on the 4th.

Margo Hodge

Annual Community Lunch

As most people will be aware, there will be no Christmas Community Lunch this year, owing to the Covid 19 restrictions. However, we hope to distribute Christmas Treats along with the Soupersnack Lunches on 23rd December.

Anna Young

With the passing of Al Beck and Derek Smith, the Community Council has also lost two long-standing members. We would like to encourage new volunteers to fill the vacancies, so that the enthusiasm and community spirit shown by Al and Derek continues.

The Humbie, East & West Saltoun and Bolton Community Council represents these villages and surrounding area. The Community Council has a right to be consulted in planning applications in the area and as necessary represents local opinions. The group acts as a forum for community issues and organises relevant community meetings, including hustings for local candidates prior to parliamentary general elections.

The Community Council also provides small grants for local projects and always welcomes new suggestions. It is linked to East Lothian Council, the Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership and contributes to various ad hoc local consultations. The regular, usually monthly, meetings provide an additional link to the Local Councillors of the Haddington and Lammermuir ward.

The Community Council membership is drawn from volunteer representatives of each of the villages. Additional community-minded contributors are always welcome!

More details of what the Community Council does can be found on our website <https://humbiesaltounboltoncommunitycouncil.com> and anyone who is interested should contact the Chairperson, Rosemary Greenhill at humbiesaltounboltoncc@gmail.com.

HUMBIE HALL COMMITTEE

2020 Vision- East Lothian Lockdown

Humbie Hall Committee are organising an On-line Photographic Competition and Exhibition to share lockdown experiences.

The Competition and Exhibition will be open to everyone in the Humbie Area, and posted on a Facebook gallery. If you would like to take part, all you need are two of your best photos taken since the 23rd March 2020. (A title for each would be good too.)

Any new hobbies or interests that you have taken up recently would be excellent to share with the Community. (If there are people in your photos, please make sure you have their permission to share.)

Please send your 2 photos to jimhunter.t21@btinternet.com **before 15th November 2020.**

Prizes- 1st Prize- £100

2nd Prize- £50

3rd Prize- £30

After sending your photos, Jim will give you the link to the Gallery. Please email Jim if you have any questions. We look forward to sharing and enjoying all your Lockdown experiences to cheer us all up.

Lynne Lowrie

colinlowrie@gmail.com

SWI – THE RURAL

It seems a long, long time since we have been able to meet and looking back to the last newsletter, this time last year we were just about to hold our Centenary Birthday Party, no mean feat for a wee group like Humbie, when larger Institutes had been closing down. We had increased our membership to from 21 to 30 plus one junior member, so, as a group, Humbie SWI is doing really well. Once we are able to start meeting up again, it is hoped that we can build on this and we welcome all women from Humbie and surrounding area.

Our hundredth birthday party was held in the Village Hall on Thursday 7th November 2019. On arrival, our guests were greeted by some of our younger members, offering canapés and sparkling wine or non-alcoholic punch and directed to their respective tables.

Morag Taylor, President gave a very warm welcome, into a beautifully decorated Humble Village Hall, to a total of 70 attendees represented by all Members with guests; National President – Linda Retson; East Lothian Federation Vice-Presidents – Violet Wardrop and Dorothie Reilly; two Members from each of the other 7 East Lothian Institutes – Aberlady, Athelstaneford, Gifford, Longniddry, Oldhamstocks, Spott and West Barns; two Members each from Cranstoun and Pathhead Institutes in Midlothian; Miss Elizabeth Bayne-Jardine, in recognition of her late mother's support of the SWRI in Humble. The names of all present will be included in our photo album record of the evening. The album was a gift from Longniddry Institute- the first one in Scotland. Photographs of the event were taken by Jim Hunter, local photographer and husband of one of our members.

All joined in singing the old Rural Song to the tune of "Nut Brown Maiden", accompanied by David McAlpine on piano.

Margo Hodge had volunteered to say the Rural Grace but unfortunately had succumbed to the cold virus currently doing the rounds and had lost her voice. Muriel Pate stood in at the last minute and delivered the Grace: -

"We thank thee Father for thy care; Food, family and kindness we share. May we forever mindful be of home and Country and of Thee. Amen."

Soup and Main courses, provided by K T's Country Kitchen, were then served by the Hostess from each table. Menu choices had already been selected by everyone to eliminate food waste so far as possible.

Our birthday cake was baked by Muriel Pate and iced by Morag Taylor. It was cut by our three most senior, long-standing Members – Betty Bell, Isabel Elder and Betty Leckie.

Linda Retson, National SWI President addressed the Members and gave a toast to Humble SWI, with congratulations to all Members, past and present, in reaching the centenary. Sadly, Fergus the SWI Teddy Bear was not in attendance with her, due to a "wardrobe malfunction". He was later photographed with Marion Muir, one of our former presidents, and Linda at a function during the following weekend.

Janice Dagg, East Lothian Federation President gave a short address, congratulating Humble Office Bearers and Members on reaching this amazing milestone and wished them continued success for the future.

Desserts, made by the MACK (Margo, Anna, Claire and Kayleigh) sub-committee, were then served buffet style to members who had the choice of indulging in a small portion each of meringues, sticky toffee pudding, chocolate mousse, trifle and fresh fruit salad. Teas and coffees followed, accompanied by Birthday Cake, truffles and tablet.

Memorabilia items, collected over the years, were displayed in the centre of the hall. Betty Bell and Muriel Pate had made up descriptive cards of each item and were on hand to give further information, as required. Included were the Farmworker doll, the Humble tablecloth, gifts from overseas and trophies won at shows.

Mementos, in the form of small boxes showing a photograph of the local primary school and the old and new SWRI/SWI badges, had been made by Muriel Pate and were given to each guest. One box contained a picture of a bird and the recipient of this box – Laura Bisset – was awarded an SWR teddy bear – named Rury (derived from Rural).

The lovely floral decorations adorning each table were gifted to the guest who had a lucky star under her tea plate and were most gratefully received.

Several Birthday cards were received and these will be included in the Photograph album of this celebration.

All too soon, our party came to an end and Karen McKnight, Vice-President, gave a vote of thanks to all who had helped to make the evening a happy and successful occasion. This included K T's Country Kitchen – Catering, David McAlpine – Music, Jim Hunter – Photographs, Local Businesses, Organisations and Individuals who donated to and supported our fund-raising events, the sub-committees who worked tirelessly to organise this evening as well as the fund-raising events held so far, Lynne Lowrie for help and advice on floral decorations, Muriel Pate for the memento boxes and for baking the Birthday Cake and to Morag Taylor for icing it, Muriel Pate & Betty Bell for presentation of the memorabilia table, all Members of Humble SWRI/SWI, past and present for keeping up the traditional values of our Organisation as well as helping us to move forward to the future as "Women Together", all of our invited guests for joining us this

evening and to the hostesses at each table and the members assisting in any way towards the smooth running of the evening.

We then made a circle around the hall and joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne".

In December, Margo and Sarah Hodge and Muriel Pate had organised a "Bake-off" and three members were invited to make each of the following: -

Thai Chicken Curry by Sarah – This was served to members along with rice and tasted delicious.

Scones – plain, fruit and cheese and Scotch Pancakes/Drop Scones jointly by Margo and Muriel – these were served with butter and/or jam with our teas/coffees and even the slightly overdone pancakes disappeared.

Our January 2020 meeting took the form of a pamper night and we were delighted to welcome Linda Allen, Beauty Therapist of Just Teasing in Tranent. Linda asked for a volunteer to be given a make-up makeover and, with no one coming forward, she invited Mary Bertram, a long-standing acquaintance, to be her "guinea pig". First of all, she moisturised Mary's face and neck then started applying make-up, blending it all in and explaining the various ways of doing so. She advised that the skin should be exfoliated beforehand for best results and also gave her thoughts on some of the many beauty/skin products on the market – the dearest not always being the best. As a contrast, she then asked for one of the younger members to volunteer and Kayleigh Myles was volunteered. Again, the process of cleansing and application was done in much the same way, with Kayleigh opting for a "clubbing style" of make-up, which was more heavily applied and used darker shades, as well as glitter. Before and after photographs of our two glamorous models were taken and copies will appear later in our Centenary Photo Album, currently under production. Linda was delighted to remain with us for the remainder of the meeting and accepted our hospitality, as well as judging the monthly competition. Linda and her models were given a hearty vote of thanks.

In February, Fiona Sneddon spoke to us about the very varied work that Macmillan 'Move More' Cancer Support does in East Lothian and Shauna Milne led us in a wonderful gentle exercise class, suitable for everyone including those who had cancer, and explained the benefits of exercise – physical, social and emotional. Fiona and Shauna were thanked very much for their contribution, and stayed with us for tea.

On 5th March, our speaker was Samira Hill, Archaeologist and History Teacher, from Knitting for All, Kelso, Jedburgh and Melrose. Samira gave an excellent history from the beginnings of knitting and crochet, using slides and photographs to illustrate some early articles such as a pair of socks from 11th Century Egypt. Although the Scottish climate prevents preservation of knitted items, evidence has been found, from the Neolithic/Medieval periods, of tools used for spinning and knitting, as well as early sewing tools. She showed many photographs of women working in the herring industry also knitting whilst doing their work. They kept their wools etc in knitting belts, so that the materials were clean. Knitting was mainly done on a round needle until the 19th century. Children (girls and boys) were taught to knit from a young age and various patterns were developed over the years, including the Sanquhar pattern used in the SWI gloves pattern, Argyll socks and the amazing wedding ring shawl from Unst using the wool off Shetland Sheep. Knitting has seen a resurgence in current times with many knit and natter groups being formed and Yarn Bombing projects – covering phone boxes, trees etc., producing very colourful displays in some towns and villages. After answering questions raised by members, Samira was given a hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Liz Hunter.

The Committee Meeting on Monday 16th March, to make arrangements for the Pub Quiz/Open Meeting on 3rd April, was cancelled due to the Corona Virus Pandemic currently sweeping the UK, as well as the rest of the world.

At National level, the SWI have been meeting via Zoom and it is hoped that East Lothian Federation, as well as the Institutes, can start meeting in this way too in the very near future. Look out for more information soon.

May I personally ask you all to keep safe, follow Government instructions, stay healthy and keep in touch via the telephone/internet/facebook until this is over?

Janice Dagg, Secretary

Tel 01875 341800

email daggjanice@gmail.com

NEWS FROM HUMBIE HUB:

When Janice asks me for the newsletter entry, I usually say to myself, golly, what will I write about this time? Not so for this entry! We have lots to write about. Firstly, and most importantly, Al. We have lost Al, a huge and valuable part of the Hub and an even bigger part of everything in the Community. We miss him terribly, but we must go on and he would want nothing else.

Next is lockdown, which hit us in 2 extremes. The café closed overnight and suddenly the shop and post office more than doubled their sales and custom, almost immediately. The café staff were furloughed apart from Alison who had been working part time pre lockdown. Two of the shop staff were also furloughed, due to health reasons and shielding. It was agreed that Alison would work 3 days a week to keep the shop stocked with some savouries and cakes, scones, bread etc. This very quickly became 4 days then 5 and then 6, in order to keep up with the demand. As well as this, we were receiving customer orders for collection and delivery and our stock was increased threefold. We had to act on our feet, the café quickly became a stock and dispatch room (with a little make shift office) and we needed 3 more fridges. This all happened very quickly and thanks to our small lockdown team, Alison, Freya, Bethany, Linda, Mark, (keeping Big Bertha the boiler going), Lisa (figures and payroll) Al (remotely, as shielding) and later Struan (when school finished) with their amazing focus, work ethic and an ability to give the best customer service, it all worked like a dream! We have a Hub Team Charter and I am extremely proud to say this small team had it all and more!

Alison's sausage rolls and quiches became a "thing" not to mention the millionaire's shortbread! On one occasion, we had people queuing outside, waiting for the sausage rolls to come out of the oven! Freya's challenge was "not to disappoint" so whatever a customer requested she made sure she sourced it! Bethany and Al with their promotions and facebook posts kept us driven with their organization skills. Al was always encouraging us and asking what he could do to help, we kept him included daily AND his daily banter kept us going! Linda, nothing was too much for Linda, she cleaned the Hub, delivered orders, collected stock and also serviced the flat (we had 2 workers from Windymains Sawmill during lockdown, who were stuck here). Linda also did the Sunday opening for the papers. Struan was working in all areas, repaired things when they broke and very reluctantly answered the phone! It was a surreal time and each of us made sure we went from Hub to home and home to Hub keeping each other and our families as safe as possible. We are very grateful to the many people who offered us help during lockdown, but it was important to keep our team small in order to reduce the risk to everyone. Oh! And while I remember, we didn't run out of flour, yeast, sugar, or loo roll, haha! They were long, busy days, but it was a pleasure and worthwhile to help the community and beyond, the people shielding, the vulnerable, the elderly and those who were too scared to venture out in these strange times. We had people turning up to buy flour and loo roll who didn't even know Humbie existed but had heard about us hahaha!!

The Post Office was like Christmas all over again; Murray was amazing as always, cheerful and smiling. I could go on and on, but most importantly, I would like to say a HUGE thankyou to the community and beyond for supporting us, also to our new, old and existing customers who continue to support us. Without you, we would not be able to keep going and we must keep the Hub going, it's so important that folk locally and afar can meet and enjoy a blether over a coffee or cup of tea and of course a homemade cake, as well as getting some shopping without having to travel into the towns.

The face masks, made by a few people in the community, to raise money for the Blood Bikes did amazingly well! £600 was donated and they were delighted with this effort. A wee reminder that we are still offering masks and are still collecting donations. The community "high heid yins" will decide on what the money will be used for.

The Hub holiday flat, Keith View, has had a few guests since the end of lockdown, although not as busy as previous years. Sadly, we have had a lot of cancellations recently due to the restrictions announced in September.

The café reopened for take away in July, then we opened for sit in mid-August. We are extremely fortunate that we have managed, so far, to bring back all our staff, although some continued on part time furlough, this is now at an end and everyone is back working as a team in the kitchen and café. Although incredibly quiet to start with, we have been busier since the restrictions banning families from meeting in their homes. We continue to get the cyclists, and on the good weather days, they prefer to sit outside. However, we have fewer tables (adhering to the social distancing rules), track and trace and little or no movement around the café. These are challenging times for staff and customers but we do our best and we must work with the rules.

The shop continues to thrive with a lot of new customers continuing to shop with us. We do our best to keep margins to a minimum and realise we cannot compete with the supermarkets. Therefore, although busy, and turning over a lot more, we are just holding our own. Lisa has attached some information on the figures to keep you all in the picture. There have been some changes to staffing in the shop. Fiona Lewis made the decision to take early retirement from the Hub to help her family with childcare. We welcome two new shop staff, Heather Christie and Alison Hush, both are doing a great job. Bethany, who has been part of the Hub team since we opened the café in 2015 and lately has been more involved in the shop and post office, is in her final year studying speech therapy, therefore not so available now. However, Bethany still helps in the background with the FB posting and promotions.

Tech Shed news: After Lothian Broadband outgrew the Tech shed and moved on, there were a few notes of interest to rent it as a whole and we did have the smaller of the 2 offices let for a short time, one tenant for six months and the other for a trial of a month. We are now delighted to announce, Leask Architects have leased it as a whole and are enjoying their countryside location having previously occupied offices in Dundas Street, Edinburgh. More information about Leask Architects will be available on our website very soon.

Our Therapy room is keeping busy. We have Tracy Lygo, Iomlan Sunnd Therapies, Saskia Smolka, Beauty Therapist, who will be starting soon. We also hire the Therapy room for consultancy and occasional office space. Dawn Cowan (Active8Massage) continues once a fortnight on Mondays, Dawn is an excellent massage therapist and highly recommended. Sadly, we no longer have Geraldine McCulloch, "Me Time Therapies", Geraldine has been a regular therapist with us for the last 4 years. Due to lockdown, Geraldine has had to take a different work route, and will be promoting her products on line, working from home. We wish Geraldine all the best of luck for the future.

Pippa Murphy continues to rent the Studio, however, like all folk in the entertainment industry has been hit hard with all concerts and musical events cancelled. We are working with Pippa to help her keep the studio and get through this pandemic.

Now, on a different note.... We are delighted to say Karen Torrens has joined the Hub team. Karen has been restructuring our kitchen working as a consultant bringing some changes and bringing the freezer meals back on board. We are also excited about our new packaging for the freezer meals, Biopac, which are completely recyclable. Being environmentally friendly is one of the aims of the Hub, but unfortunately due to COVID more plastic has been back on the scene, so we are trying to do as much as possible to compensate for this.

Big Bertha, our biomass boiler, has been behaving herself lately (touch wood) excuse the pun, so long may she continue to behave. Mark has been another amazing part of our team. I should also add that Mark has another notch to his belt (as well as keeping Bertha under control) he has been barista trained and can now make his own latte!

At last, the Hub garden is looking a lot better. Tom (the husband) has been working hard on this as he is now retired and we need to keep him busy! The grass was re-sown with more topsoil, and the old chips in the parking area have been replaced. Lockdown was in his favour as no-one was walking on the grass. Tom also played an important part taking customer deliveries and collecting stock from local suppliers. A good all round gofer! Our tubs and borders are being cared for and tended by Sandra Gentle.

Artwork: Our current Art exhibition is made up of around 10 artists who were each due to exhibit through the year and due to the circumstances, we made the decision to ask each Artist to exhibit 2 or 3 pieces of art. We now have a new hanging system in place, which AI had sourced prior to lockdown, and we were so pleased we managed to get it fitted and AI was able to see it. Frances Cottrell kindly organised the hanging of the art for us.

We are now thinking about Christmas and I think it's going to be a strange Christmas, as we do not know what lies ahead with the COVID-19 restrictions. We will weather the storm and work through whatever is in our path, in a positive and focused way.... Together as a team.

Thank you all again and as I always end my wee spiel, please do let us have any feedback on how we can improve and make the Hub a better place for you all to enjoy!

Meeting, Making and Sharing!

Take care, stay safe

From Morag and all the Hub Team

Humbie Numbers report

Please see table below, which shows our income statement from 30 September 2015 to 30 September 2019, these are based on our finalised submitted accounts.

	2019 £	2018 £	2017 £	2016 £	2015 £
Turnover	343,578	334,298	314,646	258,871	154,601
Cost of Sales	<u>176,147</u>	<u>176,491</u>	<u>170,816</u>	<u>156,872</u>	<u>102,788</u>
Gross Profit	167,431	157,807	143,830	101,999	51,813
Administrative expenses	<u>175,451</u>	<u>156,343</u>	<u>145,205</u>	<u>137,112</u>	<u>122,298</u>
Operating (loss)/profit	(8,020)	<u>1,464</u>	<u>(1,375)</u>	<u>(35,113)</u>	<u>(70,485)</u>

The Hub was set up on 30th September 2013 with a significant shareholder investment to restructure the property into the multi income stream community focused business we have today.

It has been a very interesting, challenging, rewarding journey from then to the end of 2019. As you can see, we had reducing annual losses to 2018 when we reported our first profit; this was a great achievement for us, and testament to the hard work of the team.

2019 was a very challenging year, it was very rewarding in that our turnover (sales) increased from the previous year, in terms of extra foot fall in the café, rentals and shop trade, on the flip side, large wage and overhead costs, led to a loss of £8,020 for the year. The increased staff cost was a combination of increased staff turnover and wage rate increases, to move staff to the then real living wage.

Morag and I (Lisa) work together to prepare the figures, and on occasion this has been extremely challenging and yes, we've pulled out a hair or two! Our main challenge as with many a small business is managing cash flow. Which as you can imagine with a build-up of business losses is no easy task.

Our work ethic is to ensure staff and local suppliers are paid on a timely basis and to ensure any monies left over are reinvested in the Hub, in both its staff and any capital projects needed. We currently have a workforce of 20, both part time and full- time staff and are proud that on average £12,000 per month re-enters the community via wages. In 2019, we invested in a new alarm system, and a staff training/team building event in Como, Italy (which was great and very low cost!). We work hard to stand on our own two feet, so to speak, and are proud to say we have not relied on investor funding since May 2016, although we know this is available to us if needed. Our longer- term goal, is to break even on a regular basis, reinvest in staff and the Hub. Nb the backers have received no return on their funding of the Hub and nor are they seeking it.

2020

Figures for the year ended 30 September 2020 are currently being prepared, however we are expecting to report a profit in the region of £4,000/£5,000.

The year started off very positively and figures to February 2020 had exceeded those in the same period in 2019.

The editor would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way – through articles, help or advice – to this issue. Thanks also to the Trustees of Humbie Community Fund for covering the printing costs. Large print copies can be made available on request. Comments or suggestions for future issues would be most welcome. Please contact Janice Dagg on 01875 341800 or daggjanice@gmail.com