

Autumn 2015

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Save Trees!

(And help us to spend less BID levy on postage)

If you have an email address, may we send newsletters to you via email? Let us know if this would suit you.

From time to time we may have offers from other businesses for levy payers; we will be able to tell you about these via email if we have your email address.

Summer 2015 events

What are your memories of the summer? While it certainly wasn't "a scorcher", we did have some spells of reasonable weather and despite some very heavy rain (remember the terrific thunder storm and hailstones in July?) we had a lot of dry days too. Skipton's outdoor events weren't all lucky with the weather, but all were well supported, bringing visitors and locals in to the town.



The character of the events staged in Skipton is widening and this means that they are attracting a broader audience, so bringing new people into Skipton. The activities took place in locations across town, for example Sheep Day and the new Car Show were based on the High Street, whilst the Waterways Festival is in the canal basin and the International Puppet Show brings visitors from around the world to a variety of locations in town.



Some of the events took place during the day, others, such as the new Skipton Cycle Races, which took riders in a circuit around town, were scheduled for the evening.

Photo by Dean Reeve Photography

New Projects Supported

In recent years we have been pleased to see new projects and events in Skipton. One such was the highly successful "Yarndale", launched in 2014 and now going from strength to strength. This brings exhibitors and visitors from every continent around the world. Skipton Town Partnership was pleased to support them in their first year and is now delighted to see the event heading for a second successful year without the need for further funding from us, allowing us to look at other new projects.

On a much smaller, but none the less exciting, scale is the Pink Fluffy Ketchup Covered Flower Ponies kids' comic collective who create and produce their own comic strips and graphic novels which they exhibit at international comic events. Skipton Town Partnership sponsored the team to produce a sheep themed comic; copies of which they sold at



Sheep Day. This talented group of young people meet at and are supported by Skipton Library. By sponsoring the team, Skipton Town Partnership is promoting Skipton to a completely different market which extends throughout the world, wherever people read and create comics.
Comic photograph by Jodie Lawson

How Skipton Town Partnership uses the Skipton BID levy



The board of Skipton BID spend a lot of time discussing which projects to support with funding from the levy collected each year. The aim is to bolster Skipton's ability to weather economic storms and continue to be a good place to run a business. By supporting events that bring visitors to town, we are directly helping businesses that benefit from visitors, but also helping the many businesses that indirectly benefit because they either provide services to the businesses that serve visitors, or because they provide services to people who decide that, since Skipton is such a thriving place, they will either shop and do business here regularly, or come and live here.

Flags to celebrate Skipton's link with the Magna Carta and festive red, white and blue bunting.



We go by the name of Skipton Town Partnership, a name that reflects the fact that we work in partnership with many organisations and people across Skipton. Indeed, many of the events that we support are also supported by both Skipton Town Council and

Craven District Council and can only take place because the cost is shared by a number of partners. In addition to providing financial support, the councils also provide practical activity in planning and preparing for events and in running them "on the day". Skipton Town

Council's employees provide the backbone of the many jobs needed to make most of Skipton's events run smoothly. This staff time is provided at no cost to BID levy payers.

Another of our regular partners is Skipton in Bloom whose volunteers provide such a fine show around Skipton each year. This year their



displays were themed in red and gold to reflect the Magna Carta celebrations. They provided narrowboat planters in the Canal Basin, Bus Station and at Mill Bridge, barrier planters in the Bus Station, half barrel planters in the Bus Station, Canal Basin, around fingerposts and at various locations in the town centre plus hanging baskets in the Town Hall car park, along Otley Street and on several basket trees.

This photo shows several of their displays at the Bus Station.

Access to other funding

Skipton's event organisers are also able to call on other organisations for funding, some of these other organisations will normally only consider applicants who have a guarantee of funding from local sources. One such is the Arts Council England. Skipton Town Partnership, Skipton Town Council and Craven District Council together provide sufficient funding for the Puppet Festival to receive significant funding from the Arts Council, without which the Puppet Festival would not take place.

We work with Welcome to Yorkshire to promote Skipton to a national and international audience. They also have funding available for certain types of projects based in Skipton. At the moment they have funding for the "Tour de Yorkshire Festival 2016". This follows similar festivals devised to run in parallel with the Tour de France in 2014 and the Tour de Yorkshire in 2015. Any projects with "an arts spin" that will take place during the festival period in 2016 are welcome to apply for funding from Welcome to Yorkshire. (<http://www.yorkshire.com/>)

Welcome to Yorkshire are also working with local groups of cycling enthusiasts to set up bike libraries. The aim is to provide easy access to bikes that children can use free of charge. Funding is available from Welcome to Yorkshire for local bike libraries. (<http://bikelibraries.yorkshire.com/>)

Office Move

Skipton Town Partnership is hoping to move offices very early in the new year. We've been in our current office since last summer and are aware that it is rather well hidden. Also, because we work part-time, sometimes there is no-one in the office to answer phone calls or visitors in person (if they have been successful in locating us). We hope to move to premises that are easier to find and we also hope to be able to share some services with another organisation. This should result in cost savings as well as providing a more accessible service from us. Our plans are not firm yet, but we will let you know once we are ready to move.

New Faces - part 2

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we plan to recruit a new person to work with the board in putting their decisions into practice. We recognise the importance of using the BID levy for the benefit of as many levy payers as possible, so the board is considering the role very carefully, a process that takes time if it is to be completed effectively. We are fortunate that in the interim one of our directors, Geraldine Thompson, has been able to "hold the fort".

What next?

Although the summer is behind us, there is plenty to look forward to in Skipton. Over the Christmas period we will have two Christmas Markets, several weeks when the Christmas Lights will brighten the dark evenings in town and some of the empty shop windows will be painted with suitable wintery scenes and a performance of Handel's Messiah by Skipton Camerata in the Town Hall, all of which are supported by Skipton Town Partnership.

We are already receiving applications for funding for projects and events in 2016. Some of these are old favourites, such as the Waterway Festival. There will also be a second run of the Skipton Car Show launched so successfully in 2014 and a new Food Festival is planned. There is plenty to look forward to in 2016 and Skipton Town Partnership hopes to be able to support projects and events that will continue to keep Skipton alive and well.

