

# Making a difference in Denby Dale



The Denby Dale Centre (DDC), a Fresh Expressions success story, is nestled next to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Although the Centre is most closely linked to the Clayton West and Denby Dale Methodist Church Circuit, it works closely with churches of all denominations in the area and has been running a series of projects to reduce loneliness and improving quality of life for the last twelve years.

The Centre runs a number of social activities under the banner Time Together; these include Memory Groups for people living with dementia, a film and food group, a games group, computer training, coffee mornings, cream teas and tea dances.

The charity also runs a programme of free public awareness events around such issues as dementia, arthritis, dying, deafness, doorstep crime, changing energy supplier, benefits checking and the Herbert Protocol, the police register of habits for people living with dementia. Future events include a rural volunteering fair and a grandparents event in 2018.

The Kirkburton Hub is the charity's community centre, hosting six Time Together groups, five private sector groups and five community groups. Recently the DDC worked with the National Citizen Service to create a dementia friendly meeting room in the Kirkburton Hub along with a free advice leaflet, 'Designing dementia friendly spaces' (available from [ddc.org.uk](http://ddc.org.uk)).

Linking local people with social activities and the community centre is DDC's Valleys Community Transport which runs a programme of pre-planned trips where members can book a seat. The group hire facility supports thirty community groups to overcome transport barriers for their own charitable purposes. Valleys Community Transport has been instrumental in the development of a new network of charity minibus operators which will, through the sharing of best practice and assets, provide an improved transport service in the area.

DDC's projects and services are run by an employed staff of six and a volunteer team of seventy, including activity assistants, drivers, cooks, shop assistants and drivers. It is governed by a board of 12 trustees, the majority members of the Methodist Church. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Jeanette Lodge, said, 'We have an amazing team of volunteers who work so hard to achieve our charities aims. They have told me about the benefit of volunteering with us and the satisfaction they get from improving so many people's lives'.

The Centre Manager, Paul Jones, said, 'It is amazing listening to our users talk about the scale of impact of our services. The families of our users tell me how they are being positively affected by our groups. I am very proud to be working with such amazing people'.

If you would like to know more about the Denby Dale Centre, visit [ddc.org.uk](http://ddc.org.uk).

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