

Haworth Couldn't Wear Less!

Men and Women of Worth bare all to help save important community buildings



2012 Calendars

It all started when Jevgenia's exercise and dance class from Haworth went on an overnight excursion to the Dales. While enjoying the break in the countryside one of the dance class members, Sarah Granby, picked up the Grassington Calendar Boys 2011 calendar. Following in the footsteps of the ladies of the Rylstone W.I., some of the men of Grassington had stripped off to raise money for a local cause. The idea as pioneered by the original Calendar Girls, has been much copied with varying degrees of success. Though the Grassington offering was less than stellar compared to that of the ladies slightly further down the valley, the seed was sown in the mind of Sarah, who thought this might be a fun way to raise money for Haworth Parish Church restoration fund.

It took a while, but wheels were set in motion and local Worth Valley resident Liz Barker and her husband, photographer Paul Barker were drafted in to assist. It seemed highly appropriate to use Paul to help, because during his career as a press

photographer, he covered the launch of the original W.I Calendar in 1999, and also appeared as an extra in the Calendar Girls movie.

There have been so many terrible efforts at charity calendars, that the decision was taken to only proceed on the understanding that the project would be done well or not at all. Despite the fact that it was to raise money for the church, boobs and bottoms would be visible, and when this was reported in the local press, a few people from the parish church thought this was a most unsuitable project for the church to be involved. [Not unlike the Calendar Girls' story where the WI distanced itself from the calendar participants] After some smoothing and cajoling and explaining that this was not a particularly new or radical idea...and after all it was the community coming to the aid of the church, plans were made and volunteers enlisted to pose in as great a state of undress as they dare.

The goal was to include many people

from different parts of the community, not just church goers or traders. The list grew rapidly and so many people came forward that it was eventually decided to produce two calendars, one featuring men and the other featuring women. A little friendly rivalry has been introduced to see which version sells in greater quantities. The results will be announced at a party in the New Year, which as well as having another occasion to raise a few more pounds for the church restoration fund, will be an opportunity to draw the community together for a common cause.

The photographs are completed now, and the artwork is done. The calendar includes a local councillor, a former Lord Mayor, a senior district councillor, a handful of Haworth traders, a host of interesting characters from the wider Worth Valley, a bellringer, a minister and his wife, a plumber, a mechanic, a busker, and a retired Haworth bobby and oompah band leader many will certainly recognise. It is a cast of wonderfully brave and active citizens willing to participate in community life; they deserve a pat on the back and much praise for their efforts.

From mid October the calendar will be available from many of the shops on Haworth Main Street and wider in the community. You can order online via www.worthvalleymag.co.uk. Please support this fundraising effort and purchase the calendar for your friends and relations. If nothing else, buy them now and save them for posterity...Like the original Calendar Girls first editions, they may be collectors items one day!

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