



Annual General Meeting

16th May 2011

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome & Introductions
- 2 Chairman's Report
- 3 Treasurer's Report
- 4 Election of Committee Members
- 5 Proposed Change to the Constitution
- 6 National Park & National Trust Updates
- 7 Members' Feedback and Ideas
- 8 Close

Chairman's Report for 2010–2011

Introduction

The members of Village Association (VA) Committee are currently:

Anthony Close
Brenda Varley (Women's Institute representative)
Brian Liddell
Chris Hogg
Christine Tinn
Geoff Brown (Treasurer & PCC representative)
Katharine Brown
Louise Waterhouse (Parish Councillor)
Margaret Lewis (Secretary)
Pip Simpson (Parish Councillor)
Rachel Halliday (Institute representative)
Roger Westmoreland (Social Committee representative)
Sue Black
Sylvia Waring
Tony Ashton (Chairman)

The Committee has met on five occasions during the year.

There have been several changes to the Committee since the last AGM. Emma Wright resigned from the Committee following the previous AGM and was replaced by Chris Hogg. Pip Simpson was elected Parish Councillor in July, was invited and joined the Committee in September. Louise Waterhouse also joined the Committee in September. Anthony Close joined the Committee in November.

Our Activities

Snow Clearance

You may recall that I reported last year that we had written in **February 2010** to Cumbria Highways describing the conditions and problems encountered during the prolonged period of snow during the 2009/10 winter and proposing that the village establish self-help snow

clearance facilities. After many attempts to progress matters we finally received a reply from Cumbria Highways in **November**, when they agreed to pay for a contractor to undertake snow clearance work and provide supplies of salt for this purpose.

The next two months were spent trying to identify a local contractor with suitable equipment who would meet Cumbria Highways requirements in terms of experience and insurance cover. By January it became clear that the only way to proceed was to acquire our own snowplough and gritter, to loan this to a contractor approved by Cumbria Highways and use Cumbria Highways agreement to pay for the contractor.

We established that the cost of such equipment would be around £13,500. At the VA Committee meeting in January the Committee agreed to allocate £1500 of the Association's funds, apply for grants and seek contributions from residents to purchase equipment.

At a meeting of the Lakes Local Area Partnership in February the Association secured a grant of £8,500. A further £1000 was secured at a meeting of the Lakes Parish Council in March.

Funds raised so far are as follows:

Lakes Local Area Partnership	£8,500
Lakes Parish Council	£1,000
Village Association Funds	£1,500
Donations from residents	£350
Promises	£750
Total:	£12,100

We await the outcome of further grant applications from the South Lakes District Council and the Neighbourhood Forum. In the meantime we are using Cumbria Council's Procurement Team to obtain additional quotations for the equipment.

We are optimistic of the project going ahead within the next few months.

Highways and Byways

Throughout the year we have been pressing for action on a wide range of other highways issues, including blocked drains, potholes and poor road surfaces. Greengate, Lowgate and Holbeck Lane have featured prominently in our efforts though there were many other problems throughout the area.

We continue to encourage residents to report problems directly to the Cumbria Highways 24 hour hotline number on 0845 6096609, nevertheless there have been many emails and letters from the VA on the above issues.

In the case of Lowgate, where the surface was again washed away in heavy rain, Geoff Brown arranged an onsite meeting with representatives from Cumbria Highways, National Park and the Environment Agency. The meeting agreed that Low Gate would be re-surfaced but the first stage of a long term solution would require a survey of the water courses to determine how best they could be improved.

In March last year we supplied, at the request of the Council, a list of the location and condition of grit bins in the Parish. There are in fact only four! No action appears to have been forthcoming from this initiative. However in February we received a 7 tonne supply of road salt/sand mix which was distributed by Mike Simpson to key locations around the village. This was used to good effect by many residents during the wintry conditions.

Garburn Track

In 2006 the LDNP designated the Garburn Pass as a 'restricted byway'. This meant it was only open to pedestrians, horses and cycles and not mechanically propelled vehicles (MPVs) such as 4 by 4s and trail bikes. This designation was challenged and resulted in the Planning Inspectorate issuing an interim order decision to make the Garburn Pass a 'byway open to all traffic'. This would mean the track would become a public right of way open to all traffic, including MPVs.

However, this interim decision was overturned and having been one of many organisations wishing to retain the track as a restricted byway we continue to await the outcome.

Footpath between Jesus Church and the Queens Head

Geoff Brown is representing the VA on a Committee which is progressing this matter and we are again awaiting an update on the likely timing of this work.

Village Web Site www.troutbeck.org

We have received positive feedback on the email updating service we introduced last year. The service now has 40 subscribers who receive regular updates on local matters including all the local planning applications we glean from regular notifications received from the National Park.

The web site continues to be updated by Brian Liddell and again receives positive feedback and a continuing small number of enquiries mostly from those wishing to trace their family history.

'Library at Town End' Event

Emma Wright, Custodian of Townend, gave an illustrated talk on 'The Library at Town End' on 9th June. The library is rated as one of the top three libraries owned by the National Trust in the whole country.

Emma's talk covered background about the Browne family and Townend and was illustrated with slides and short readings from some of the texts. Wine and nibbles were provided after the event and everyone enjoyed an informative and convivial evening.

Village Tidy-up Day

The Committee arranged a Village Tidy-up Day on 30th October, when some 16 residents spent a morning clearing several areas in the village before adjourning to the Institute for an enjoyable lunch. They were aided by Pip and Ryan Simpson who with tractor and trailer to hand moved a quantity of large stones and cleared away a considerable amount of wood and clippings.

We hope to arrange a similar event again later this year.

Woodlands and Invasive Weeds

Katharine Brown continues to represent the VA on the 'Windermere Invasive Species Group' and thereby secure funding for future spraying of Japanese Knotweed. Katharine also organizes work parties to pull up Himalayan Balsam.

Both invasive species are much reduced in Troutbeck following some four years of attention.

Troutbeck Garden Trail

The Association is once again coordinating the Trail this year, with a separate committee formed to plan the event. The 2011 Trail will be held on the second May Bank Holiday on Monday 30th May.

Fifteen gardens will be open to the public, complemented by the usual additional attractions of garden quiz and raffle, Institute home-made teas, a plant and garden produce stall, ice-cream stall, children's attractions and heritage information boards around the village.

An article in this year's April edition of the Cumbria Life magazine covered the last Garden Trail in 2009 and we are hopeful this will help attract more visitors this year. The last Trail raised a total of £6000, which was distributed equally between the Institute, Jesus Church, First Responders and the VA.

Bird Culling

It became apparent during the year that jackdaws were becoming a real nuisance within the village. After consulting with the many residents affected the Committee agreed to fund a cull of these birds.

National Park Matters

I'm pleased to report that following the last AGM the National Park finally agreed to routinely mail us with copies of new planning applications. This enables us to publicise those which relate to Troutbeck using the e-mail service and on the Association notice board.

At the Association's Committee meeting in March we met with Paul Haggin (Development Management Team Leader) and Steve Gaskell. We discussed a wide range of matters affecting Troutbeck. We expressed our increasing concerns at the number of retrospective planning applications being granted and also the apparent lack of follow-up once applications are granted. We argued that both these reduce the value and effectiveness of the planning process.

Low Fold Cottage

Low Fold Cottage (opposite the phone box near the Institute) owned by the Holehird Trust Estate and administered by Cumbria Council has been unoccupied for ten years. The VA has on occasions over the last five years canvassed for it to be repaired and made available for local housing.

When this year we became aware that the property was to be sold on the open market we sought to reverse this decision. Despite repeated letters, phone calls and emails to those concerned, including Tim Farron and Joe Stephenson, we appear to have been unsuccessful. It appears the Trust are proceeding with the sale though it has not been advertised on the open market.

Limefitt Park

I have little to report on Limefitt. We continue to press both Limefitt management and the Forestry Commission for the promised woodland plan for the site, though there appears little enthusiasm for such a plan. In the meantime we continue to monitor the site for any evidence of illegal expansion, further developments or tree felling.

Finally

I would once again like to thank all Troutbeck residents and Committee members for the help and support I have received during the year.

While we seek residents' feedback and views through the AGM all members of the Committee welcome all such feedback throughout the year. You can also provide feedback, anonymously or otherwise, through the Association's web site at www.troutbeck.org .

Tony Ashton
Chairman
Troutbeck Village Association
6th May 2011

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

<u>Receipts & Payments Account</u>	£	£
Receipts:		
Donations		375.00
Surplus on 'Town End Talk'		38.95
		<hr/> 413.95
Payments:		
Web Domain & Hosting	171.11	
Garden Trail Insurance	201.40	
Room Hire	140.00	
AGM Costs	57.93	
Jackdaw Culling	92.00	
		<hr/> 662.44
<u>Deficit for the Year</u>		<hr/> 248.49

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Balance at Bank 1 st April 2010	2561.01
<u>Less</u> Deficit for the Year	248.49
Balance at Bank 31 st March 2011	2312.52

Geoff Brown
Treasurer
Troutbeck Village Association
30th April 2011

Proposed Addition to the Constitution

The Association has no 'Equal Opportunities Statement' and yet has been asked to provide such a statement in our recent grant applications. We have established that the minimum requirement which meets these needs is to add to the 'Membership' section of the Association's Constitution the following sentence:

The Association is committed to ensuring that all members are treated equally regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.

The meeting will be asked to approve the addition for which a majority of two thirds of members is required.