



Annual General Meeting

13th May 2013

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome & Introductions
- 2 Chairman's Report
- 3 Treasurer's Report
- 4 Election of Committee Members
- 5 Members' Feedback and Ideas
- 6 Close & Refreshments

Chairman's Report for 2012–2013

Introduction

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

Susan Black (Treasurer)

Les Bradley

Alex Brooker

Katharine Brown

Fiona Green

Rosemary Hopwood (PCC Representative)

Margaret Lewis (Secretary)

Brian Liddell

Pip Simpson (Parish Councillor)

Christine Tinn

Louise Waterhouse (Parish Councillor)

Roger Westmoreland (Institute & Social Committee representative)

The Committee has met on five occasions during the year.

There have been several changes to the Committee since the last AGM. Anthony Close resigned in November as a result of his move to the Cotswolds. Fiona Green and Rosemary Hopwood were co-opted onto the Committee in January and March respectively. In March Brenda Varley resigned and Tony Ashton stood down as Chairman and resigned. Both Brenda and Tony have been committee members since the formation of the Village Association and thanks go to both of them for the hard work and commitment they have shown.

Main Activities during the Year

Public Hearing into Limefitt Park's Application to extend

As previously reported South Lakeland Parks, operator of the Limefitt Park made an application in August 2011 to add 14 lodges to a new area further up the valley. The VA actively opposed the application. The National Park refused the application in November 2011 but South Lakeland Parks appealed against this refusal in April 2012. As a consequence of this appeal the matter was referred to the Planning Inspectorate who arranged a Public Hearing in the Institute for July 2012.

A good deal of time went into preparing for the Planning Inspectorates Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was very well attended and some 12 local people all spoke against the proposed site extension. A site visit followed the hearing, affording a further opportunity to discuss with the Inspector the impact the site extension would have on the valley.

In Sept 2012 the Planning Inspector dismissed the Appeal, citing reasons which are believed to effectively quash the possibility of any future expansion of the site up the valley.

Footpath between Jesus Church and the Queens Head

In November a new permissive footpath through the fields at the side of the busy and dangerous A592 from the Queens Head to just above the entrance to Limefitt Park was opened.

The Association has long canvassed for such a footpath, with many discussions and meetings with the National Park, National Trust and Cumbria Highways.

Thanks for the footpath are due to the National Trust and their tenant farmer, Mr Brian Longton for allowing the footpath and to the NT rangers for undertaking the work. A ceremony organised by the National Trust formally opened the footpath. The Association arranged refreshments at the Queen's Head after the ceremony, which provided ample opportunity for the 30 or so attendees to offer their thanks.

Troutbeck Garden Trail

The Association is once again coordinating the Trail which will be held on the second May Bank Holiday on Monday 27th May 2013. Twelve 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. A litter-pick is planned in the village beforehand.

The proceeds of the Trail will be distributed amongst local organisations.

Flooding

The work undertaken with the Environment Agency, Cumbria Highways and the South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) Environment Team in early 2012 to mitigate the effects of heavy rainfall have been reported to the affected land owners. Several improvements have been made but the remaining improvements remain in the hands of the several land owners since the Association failed to identify any public funds that could be used to achieve the required improvements.

Highways & Byways

Numerous highways problems have arisen and have been reported during the year. Many have been concerned with potholes and standing water which freezes in cold weather. A response is usually forthcoming but the repairs frequently look to be of a temporary nature.

Thanks go to Councillor Ben Berry who on our behalf has successfully handled some of these complaints with the County Council.

We continue to recommend that residents report highways problems directly to the Cumbria Highways, and only if the problem persists to contact the VA. We will then try and escalate the request through our various contacts. Please note the County Council hotline has changed and is now 01539713006 or email keith.massar@cumbriahighways.co.uk

Snow Clearance

Once again good use was made of the gritter and the plough during the heavy snows last winter. Thanks go to Pip and Ryan Simpson for keeping our village roads clear and for ensuring Troutbeck residents were not marooned as was the case in the past.

The gritter was used over 25 times during the winter and the snow plough was used on 6 occasions.

There is a requirement to spend an estimated £350 on maintenance of the plough. The work will be carried out over the summer months. Provision is also being made in the accounts to build up a fund for the

replacement of the equipment when it comes to the end of its useful life in 10 years' time.

Village Web Site www.troutbeck.org

Troutbeck's community website continues to grow with new photos and information about our community life. It receives regular praise from readers around the world, often from readers who have some family connections to our village. Sometimes these readers also send in questions about their family history via our website's feedback form. During this year Committee members have been able to answer quite a number of these.

Our email Update newsletter continues to keep everyone up-to-date with Troutbeck's latest developments and urgent news. If you are not yet on our circulation list, you can easily be added by sending your email address to emailupdate@troutbeck.org

Also note you can also provide your feedback to the Association, anonymously or otherwise, through the Association's web site at www.troutbeck.org

Invasive Species in Troutbeck

Katharine Brown continues to maintain this record and to represent the Village Association on the 'Windermere Invasive Species Local Action Group'. This month Katharine writes;

"I am pleased to report that no new stands of Japanese Knotweed have been sighted in the village recently and that existing plants have been kept well under control with professional spraying of chemicals. Himalayan Balsam keeps on returning, especially to the banks of the becks. Last year we had a party of villagers and members of the National Trust and South Cumbria Rivers Authority to help. They were rewarded with a pint from the Mortal Man.

We need to keep on top of these weeds until both are eradicated from the village as they can cause severe erosion and depletion of native species."

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

A 1950's themed evening celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was held in the Institute on Monday 4th June. Some 80 people enjoyed the event which was sold out. The room was well decorated with bunting, paper chains, flowers flags and balloons and the tables were decorated with union jack runners. A delicious meal of Coronation chicken and salads prepared by Annette and Christopher Poulson was followed by a desert course of 1950's puddings all made by the Jubilee committee, led by Louise Waterhouse. Quizzes relating to the Queen were circulated and the best dressed lady and man in 1950's fashions were judged.

The three 'Queen Elizabeth' commemorative stones were also cleaned and repainted as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Thanks are due to the dream team of Christine Tinn, Mike Simpson and Steve Kelly who renovated, cleaned the stones and repainted them with gold lettering. No expense was incurred for this work.

Jesus Church Music Event

In October the Committee promoted a performance of 'West Gallery' music in Jesus Church. This was done in cooperation with 'Friends of Cumbria Archives' who arranged the event and provided refreshments. The event was very well attended with a full Church enjoying a spirited and entertaining performance by the 'Gladly Solemn Sound'

The VA share of the profit from the event of £107 was added to the Association Funds.

Finally

I would like to thank all Troutbeck residents and Committee members for the help and support I have received during my tenure as Chairman.

I remain very much committed to the aims of the Association, and I very much hope you will give my successor and members of the Committee your feedback, suggestions and continued support.

Tony Ashton

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2013

| <u>Receipts & Payments Account</u> | £ | £ |
|---|----------|-----------------|
| Receipts: | | |
| Proceeds from Jubilee Celebrations | | 205.00 |
| Share of proceeds from Gladly Solemn Sound performance | | 107.00 |
| | | 312.00 |
| Payments: | | |
| Footpath opening- refreshments | 48.45 | |
| Web Domain & Hosting | 158.16 | |
| 2012 AGM Costs | 46.80 | |
| Troutbeck Institute hire of Rooms | 100.00 | |
| | | 353.41 |
| Loss for the Year: | | 41.41 |
| <u>Statement of Assets & Liabilities</u> | | |
| Cash Funds: | | |
| Balance at Bank 1 | | 3,110.71 |
| Less Loss for the Year | | 41.41 |

Balance at Bank 31

3,059.30

Liabilities:

Cost of repairing snowplough
(estimate)

350.00

Sinking Fund for replacement of
snow clearing equipment (planned
contribution of £1500 pa over the
assumed life of 10 years)

1500.00

Susan Black
Treasurer
Troutbeck Village Association
30th April 2013