



Annual General Meeting

11th May 2015

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome & Introductions
- 2 Chairman's Report
- 3 Treasurer's Report
- 4 Election of Committee Members
- 5 Members' Feedback and Ideas
- 6 Presentation by Sarah Blacow (PCSO)
- 7 Close & Refreshments

Chairman's Report for 2014–2015

Introduction

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

Margaret Lewis (Chairman)

Susan Black (Treasurer)

Les Bradley (Secretary)

Rosemary Hopwood (PCC Representative)

Mike Simpson (Institute representative)

Pip Simpson (Parish Councillor)

Christine Tinn

Louise Waterhouse (Chairman of Lakes Parish Council)

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. Reverend Brian Sweeter resigned in January as a result of his move to his new Parish and Fiona Green moved from Townend. Geoff Brown (our last chairman) and Katherine Brown resigned for personal reasons. All have been thanked for their work on the Committee. Mike Simpson volunteered to join the Committee and was elected on March 2015. As Vice Chairman, and also a founder member of the Association and secretary for many years, Margaret Lewis took over as Chairman in November 2014.

Main Activities during the Year

Discover Troutbeck - Walks Event (2014)

This event was suggested and held as a fundraiser to alternate with the bi-annual Garden Trail. The day went extremely well, for a first time event. The walks were highly successful; thanks to our volunteer walk leaders and the maps and leaflets provided were excellent. The refreshments provided in the Institute were greatly appreciated by all and this was due to our many helpers and contributors on the day. This year the Association is once again coordinating the Troutbeck Garden Trail which will be held on the second May Bank Holiday on Monday 25th May 2015. This event has developed a high profile in the area, is normally our best fund raiser and a huge community event. Approximately ten 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, children's

attractions and heritage information boards to be placed around the village. Louise Waterhouse our organiser has asked if every one could assist by picking up litter in the vicinity of their homes and around the village beforehand and particularly in the run up to the Trail. To maintain the reputation of the Event and especially our highly regarded Village teas, all help is welcome particularly with the baking and contributions to the raffle.

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

Highways and Byways

During the year the Association has successfully followed up several problems with different agencies. Pot holes, especially when full of water, are a continuous inconvenience and danger, to both motorists and cyclists. We continue to recommend that residents report highways problems directly to the Cumbria Highways, and only to contact the VA if the problem persists. Cumbria Highways 24 hr hotline 0845 609 6609

Drainage Problem on Greengate

The problem of field drainage running onto the road had become a hazard to traffic and pedestrians for several years despite frequent appeals to the Highways department. The blockage was finally cleared and a new stone filter/sump was installed in the summer of 2014, However it is felt that the size of the drain running under the road is still inadequate and excess water can 'pool' on the road for a period during excessive downpours, but this does now drain away reasonably quickly. Given the priorities and stretched budget of Cumbria Highways it is not felt this is currently worth escalating, as the overall situation is much improved. Thanks go to Les Bradley, Ben Berry (Councillor), and Heidi Halliday (County Councillor), for their help in resolving this problem.

Footpath along A592 from Greengate Bridge

The state of this overgrown footpath had long been a worry to villagers and was an accident waiting to happen, as walkers were forced to walk on the road. Thanks go to Les Bradley, Ben Berry (SLDC councillor) and Colin Jones (CCC councillor) for their persistence in trying to resolve this issue. Ownership of the path is unclear with none of the authorities willing to accept ownership or take on responsibility for maintenance. Special thanks are due to James Archer of the National Trust (NT) who broke the impasse and organised a team of volunteers to clear the path. Unfortunately the problem is not permanently resolved as none of the authorities at present accept ownership or responsibility. Les Bradley has written to the NT to see if they would adopt this path and maintain it in the future, we are still awaiting the outcome of this request.

The bad state of Nanny Lane had long been a concern and following discussions with the National Parks, funds have been made available by them and this spring repair work has taken place. Thanks go to Geoff Brown who constantly lobbied for this improvement and to Mike and Martin Simpson who were contracted by the Park to carry out the work.

Garburn Track and Applethwaite Quarry

Illegal use of the Garburn Track and the quarry by scrambler bikes and 4x4's continue as an unsolved problem despite the Association working closely with the Police and the National Parks. If you see illegal activities taking place, please report them either by using the non-emergency 901 telephone number or contact [william.nolan@cumbria](mailto:william.nolan@cumbria.police.uk) police.uk reporting Number plates is especially helpful for the police to approach users.

Other Highway Issues

The Association is also still following up other issues such as improving road signs to the village, as there is currently no sign for Troutbeck Village for traffic travelling North on the A592, or at the junction of Bridge Lane and Holbeck.

Snow Clearance

Luckily we escaped with a mild winter this year which once again resulted in fairly minimal use of the snow plough and gritter. However, we still need to be prepared. Our thanks go to Pip Simpson and Ryan who keep the machinery in good repair. The County Council still provides road grit and salt but this last winter put a moratorium on giving contracts to operators. We thank the Parish Council for being prepared to pick up the costs for the operators' time. The situation for the coming winter of 2015 is still uncertain and negotiations have yet to be made.

We are still attempting to make provision in the accounts to build up a fund for the ongoing maintenance and eventual replacement of the equipment when it comes to the end of its useful life in 10 years' time. This is however proving difficult as our profits over the last two years have not kept up with those of previous years.

Village Web Site www.troutbeck.org

Troutbeck's community website run by a founder member of the Association, Brian Liddell, continues to grow with new photos and information about our community life. It receives regular praise from local readers and those around the world. Also note you can also provide your feedback to the Association, anonymously or otherwise, through the Association's web site at www.troutbeck.org

The Village Association continues to maintain a residents' distribution list for communications via e-mail. Currently local planning applications are submitted using this list and from time to time other relevant information about matters affecting the village. If you wish to

be placed on the list please e-mail Les Bradley @
info@highfoldbedandbreakfast.co.uk

Invasive Species in Troutbeck

Katharine Brown for many years maintained the role of coordinating efforts to try and control or eradicate invasive species, but unfortunately has had to resign due to ill health. The role has been passed on to another specialist, Janet Ashton, who although not on the Committee has kindly volunteered to represent the Village Association on the "Windermere Invasive Species Local Action Group" part of the National Trust and South Cumbria Rivers Authority. We need to keep on top of these weeds such as Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and more recently Skunk Cabbage. Unless they are eradicated they can cause severe erosion and depletion of native species.

Other Matters

Over the last year, the Association has attended

- a presentation given by officers from Connecting Cumbria at Lakes Parish Council for an Upgrade to the A591
- met twice with managers of Limefitt Park to discuss signage and recent developments
- contacted BT and Tim Farron (MP) regarding Telephone and Internet problems

Finally

I should like to thank;

All residents for their continued and enthusiastic support of the Village Association and its work during the year;

The Committee members and others who take on additional jobs willingly and enthusiastically when approached.

Margaret Lewis –Chairman

May 2015

Treasurer's Report
for the Year Ended 31 March 2015

| <u>Receipts & Payments Account</u> | £ | £ |
|---|------------|--------------|
| Receipts: | | |
| Proceeds from Walks Day | | 1,097 |
| Raffle at AGM 2014 | | 61 |
| Total receipts | | 1,158 |
| Payments: | | |
| Donation to Institute | 400 | |
| Web Domain & Hosting | 93 | |
| 2014 AGM Costs | 52 | |
| Troutbeck Institute Hire of Rooms | 100 | |
| Insurance for Garden Trail 2015 | 211 | |
| Wire for bridge repair | 207 | |
| | | 1,063 |
| Surplus for the Year: | | 95 |

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

| | | £ |
|---|-------------|--------------------|
| | | Cash Funds: |
| Balance at Bank 1 st April 2014 | | 4,088 |
| Surplus for the Year | | 95 |
| Balance at Bank 31 st March 2015 | See note | 4,183 |

Note to accounts

Cash funds held are retained for TVA's own use, some funds have been designated for use as shown:

| Genera l fund | Snow Plough Sinkin g fund | Total funds |
|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| £ | £ | £ |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Funds brought forward at 1st April 2014 | 1,088 | 3,000 | 4,088 |
| Surplus for the year ended 31 March 2015 | 95 | - | 95 |
| Funds designated during the year for specific purposes | (1,000) | 1,000 | - |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Funds carried forward at 31st March 2015 | 183 | 4,000 | 4,183 |
| <hr/> | | | |

The Snow Plough Sinking fund is set aside for the replacement and repair of snow clearing equipment. Funds have been designated for this purpose from surpluses raised at a rate of £1,500 per annum in the two previous years; only £1,000 was available to set aside for this purpose in the year to 31 March 2015. It is intended that a further £500 be set aside from the proceeds of the 2015 Garden Trail for this purpose. Renewal of the equipment would cost £15,000 at current prices.

Susan Black -Treasurer

Troutbeck Village Association

30th April 2015