

# SLINGSBY WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER GROUP

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Grapes

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### 1. Introduction

My report gives a brief overview of the activities of the Slingsby Website and Newsletter Group during the past year, the fifth year of its operation. Some of my colleagues will report in more detail on our Group finances, the Triangle and the more technical aspects of the website.

The past year has been marked by both continuity and renewal.

We are fortunate that two new volunteers came forward early in 2015 and fitted well into our well-established team structure. Stephen Mackinder joined the website team and Naomi joined the Triangle team.

Evidence of the established place our two projects have now achieved came in February when we were invited to talk at a meeting organized by Rural Action Yorkshire at Hovingham Village Hall. Keith, as Triangle editor, and Jon, as website editor, each gave a presentation to a packed house of village representatives from across Ryedale.

The finances of our group are sound. The accounts will be presented by our Treasurer, Carol Buck.

#### 2. Website

We continue to make every effort to ensure the Slingsby Village website is kept up-to-minute in both content and software terms. We know that our website can be considered a model for other small communities to follow.

In the last year we have published an increased number of news and event posts, thanks, in no small part, to the efforts of our new team member, Stephen Mackinder. We can now feel confident in our ability to maintain into the future our commitment to updating the website at least twice weekly. Through these posts, which form the majority of the new content added to the site, we support village groups and promote community action. Visitor numbers are up on last year, probably reflecting the increased number of news and event posts being published.

More audio content has been published on the website this year. The series of discussions organized with local residents by the Local History Group and drawing on older residents' memories are now fully accessible to all.

Until recently, not many website visitors had been taking advantage of the comments function on the website. That all changed in September when an item about fracking appeared under our Slingshot byline. Both sides of the argument were presented in detail by the many and various people commenting. It would be good to see more residents using this feature to express views on local topics of all types.

We are grateful to all our regular contributors, among others Geoff Brooks for his monthly walk feature and Stephen Prest for his farming column.

We must also thank Steve Allen who earlier this year made a large number of his photos available for website and Triangle use.

The background structure of the website is well-proven, stable and secure.

As time has gone on, more of the routine tasks such as backup and software updating have been automated, enabling our hard-working webmaster, Richard Flint to take a break of a couple of months from website work in order to complete a photography book project. Information of a more technical nature will be provided in the Webmaster's report.

### 3. The Triangle

Keith Buck stepped down as Triangle editor once he had produced his final Triangle in February. He continues to manage advertising in the Triangle, the Yellow Pages, and also to coordinate the delivery team. To all of them we say a big thank you.

We were pleased to welcome Naomi, who came forward in the nick of time to join David Thornley as a new co-editor. She brought a lot of experience to the role and the transition appeared seamless. Naomi put her first issue together in April and alternates with David Thornley in producing the popular newsletter for all residents.

The Triangle editor's report will give more information.

### 4. The Group

The Group is now at full strength for the first time in well over two years. Our new members have brought a fresh perspective and some relief for the existing members.

The new strength of our Group, together with our ability to get along well together and cooperate effectively gives us much more confidence than this time last year in the sustainability of our two joint projects.

### 5. Outlook

The outlook for the immediate future seems to be good.

We wish to keep the website fresh, in order to promote Slingsby, Fryton and South Holme to the wider world. With the Triangle, we wish to continue to keep people informed and entertained. We are here to assist all who need publicity for their community activities. Ultimately however we have to rely on people providing us with their news and events.

So, as always, we thank everyone who has contributed to making the website and Triangle a success in the past year, and we look forward to cooperating with a yet more diverse range of people in the coming year.

Jon Boots  
Secretary and Acting Chairman

9 Nov 2015