

SLINGSBY WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Thursday 24th November 2016 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 sixth year of its operation.

Separate reports by some of my colleagues on the Group will give more information about our Group's financial position, the Triangle and the more technical aspects of the website.

We are pleased that feedback from residents, received largely via the Parish Plan questionnaire, has been almost entirely positive. A few points came up which gave us ideas to work on.

Team changes mean that once again we are keen to hear from anyone who would like to help us with the website and/or especially the Triangle.

The finances of our group are healthy and well-managed. The accounts will be presented by our Treasurer, Carol Buck.

2. Website

We have continued to ensure the Slingsby Village website is kept up-to-date in both content and software terms. We are pleased that our website can still be considered a model small community website.

In the last year we have published about 220 news and event posts, which is a record for our website. This is largely thanks to news editor Stephen Mackinder, who has been taking a proactive approach in gathering information. Through these posts, which form the clear majority of the new content added to the site, we have continued to help village groups and promote community action. We have maintained our commitment to update the website at least twice weekly.

Website visitor numbers remain strong, even though they are now tempered by the increasing popularity of social media and the website's own email subscription service as means of accessing our published information. More people are now using Facebook, Twitter and email subscription to stay abreast of local events, without clicking through to the website. We expect our Twitter followers to reach 1000 by the end of the year.

The background structure of the website is well-proven, stable and secure. Although Richard Flint has automated many of the routine technical tasks, he continues to keep a weather eye on what's happening down in the engine room, so he can nip any impending technical problems in the bud.

More information of a technical nature will be provided in the Webmaster's report, which Richard has provided.

3. The Triangle

The Triangle has had another good year, with David and Naomi producing alternate issues using well-tried procedures. It has published many interesting articles and much useful information from a wide range of contributors.

Keith continues to look after advertising in the Triangle, the Yellow pages and the delivery team. We are very grateful to all advertisers and deliverers!

The Triangle editor's report will give more information.

4. The Group

The Group started the year at full strength.

Early in 2016 George Dudzinski stepped down as deputy website editor. He was in at the birth of the website and provided a sense of humour and linguistic knowledge. We thank him for all he did for the website.

In the summer, Naomi gave notice that she wished to hand over to a successor as Triangle co-editor and announced in the August Triangle that the Feb 2017 issue would be her last. I am very grateful to her for what she has done and has yet to do. We are now already focused on trying to find someone new for the job of compiling three alternate issues.

Although Richard has more recently had to take a step back from SWaNG matters, owing to personal circumstances, he continues to be committed to providing the technical support and knowhow the website needs to secure it into the coming year. I am extremely grateful for this and for all he has done – the village website simply would not exist had it not been for Richard's freely given expertise.

5. Outlook

The continuation of the Triangle depends upon a volunteer coming forward. It seems very unlikely that the Triangle as we know it can continue beyond the Spring of 2017 without a new co-editor to share the burden with David.

The website would also benefit from an extra helper, in order to sustain our commitment to updating the website with your news and events twice a week.

No special skills are required for either of these roles, other than basic computer skills. Now is the time to come forward to help the Triangle and website go forward through 2017.

Many individuals and groups now rely on us. The loss of Triangle and website must be avoided at all costs.

Finally, as always, we thank everyone who has helped make the website and Triangle a success in the past year, and we look forward to cooperating with yet more residents over the coming year.

Jon Boots
Chairman and Secretary

21 Nov 2016