

SLINGSBY WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Thursday 23rd November 2017 at 7.30pm in The Grapes

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Introduction

The Slingsby Website and Newsletter Group, now in its seventh year of operation, has enjoyed another successful year bringing news, local interest stories and event publicity to the residents of Slingsby, Fryton and South Holme, as well as many other people far and wide.

This report will give a very brief review of the last 12 months for website and Triangle, and then look ahead to 2018.

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.

The main changes this year have been caused by some team members' changes of circumstances. Some vacancies arising have been filled, but we still look to strengthen the team.

2. Finance

The finances of our group are sound and well-managed. However, increased printing costs mean that we must review the subscription price of the Triangle. The accounts will be presented by our Treasurer, Carol Buck, who stands down at this AGM. The handover to Sarah Bowley, who is set to become our new Treasurer, is progressing well.

3. 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 still compares well with the best small community websites.

In the last 12 months we have published about 220 news and event posts, which is similar to the record figure we achieved last year. Also, we have been able to maintain our commitment to update the website at least twice weekly. All this is largely thanks to Stephen Mackinder, who has been our website news editor since 2015. He has now moved to Amotherby, and is looking to stand down from the committee. We hope Dave Wilmore will assume the editing role soon.

Website visitor numbers and page views are both up on last year, even though the figures do not tell the whole story. More people are now using Facebook, Twitter and email subscription to stay abreast of local events, without clicking through to the website. Our Twitter followers now exceed 1000.

The background structure of the website is well-proven, stable and secure. A change of host remedied a few problems occurring earlier in the year. Since April, our webmaster, Richard Flint, has been monitoring the technical aspects of the website from his home near Consett. More information of a technical nature will be provided in the Webmaster's report, which Richard has provided.

4. The Triangle

The Triangle has had another good year. New co-editor Jo Bradley produced her first Triangle at the end of May. She surmounted the initial technical challenge with ease and has brought a fresh perspective and interesting new content. Triangle circulation has risen.

Keith Buck, who has been looking after advertising in the Triangle, the Yellow pages and the delivery team since 2015, when he relinquished the Triangle editor's role, is now in the process of handing over the advertising management role to Jo Breckon.

The Triangle editor's report will give more information.

5. The Group

The Group has seen several changes in membership in the last 12 months.

Jo Bradley took over from Naomi in the Spring as David's Triangle co-editor.

Stephen Mackinder bows out as Secretary and website news editor. I'm indebted to him. Dave Wilmore will work with me to fill the website editing gap. We still seek one additional website helper.

As you know, Carol and Keith Buck are expecting to move to Dorset quite soon. We are immensely grateful for everything they have done for the Group and indeed the parish. We hope to accept Sarah Bowley on to the committee as our new Treasurer, while, as already said, Jo Breckon will take over much of Keith's role.

Richard Flint moved away in the Spring but continues to be committed to providing the technical support and knowhow the website needs to secure its future. I am extremely grateful for his continued commitment.

6. Outlook

The future of the Triangle seems secure, with a new team slotting into place well. We thank all contributors and distributors and, as always, welcome additional help from new contributors.

The website would certainly benefit from an extra helper (whether contributor or assistant editor) to sustain our commitment to updating the website with your news and events twice a week and to keep it looking fresh. (No special skills are required, other than basic computer skills.)

Even though the outlook is encouraging, now is a good time to come forward to help the website and Triangle go forward through 2018.

Many individuals and groups now rely on us. We are happy to bear that responsibility.

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

22 November 2017