

SLINGSBY WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Thursday 22nd November 2018 at 7.30pm in The Grapes

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Introduction

The Slingsby Website and Newsletter Group, now in its eighth year of operation, has enjoyed an eventful and successful year. Together the website and the Triangle have continued to bring news, local interest stories, event publicity and service information to the residents of Slingsby, Fryton and South Holme, as well as many other people far and wide.

This report will give a brief review of the last 12 months of the Group's activities, and then look ahead to 2019.

Separate reports will be presented to give more detail about our Group's financial position, the Triangle and the more technical aspects of the website.

Speaking as one of the two remaining founder members of the Group, I'm pleased to say that the Group continues to evolve, and it ends the year with more changes in the offing.

2. Finance

The finances of our group are sound, as well as being accurate and well-presented, thanks to Sarah Bowley in her first year as Treasurer. Increased income this year has derived mainly from the Triangle subscriptions (which we reluctantly raised from £5 to £6 p.a. in April) and to a new deal with Castle Howard, who gave us £150 this year. Any printing (or other) cost increases can now be safely absorbed.

3. Website

We have continued to ensure the Slingsby Village website is kept up-to-date in both its content and its software. We are pleased that our website still compares well with the best small community websites.

We have published about 180 news and event posts over the course of the last 12 months, as well as carrying out the separate task of keeping the website calendar up-to-date. We have been able to maintain our commitment to update the website at least twice weekly. The website pages are kept under review and often updated.

Website visitor numbers and page views remain high. In parallel, Facebook, Twitter and email subscriptions deliver news to people who prefer these media. Our Twitter followers and Facebook likes are both slightly up on last year.

The background structure of the website is well-proven, stable and secure. Behind the scenes, your website editors have been getting used to a new user interface in the shape of a new block editor, which will become integral to the content management system when WordPress 5.0 is released in the near future. Website visitors will not be affected.

More information of a technical nature is given in the Webmaster's report, which Richard Flint

has provided.

4. The Triangle

The Triangle has had another good year. Co-editors David Thornley and Jo Bradley have produced alternating issues, while Jo Breckon has ensured that printed copies are delivered to your door, with the vital help of a large delivery team. We are grateful to them and of course to our regular contributors.

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.

In December 2017, Sarah Bowley became our Treasurer, while Jo Breckon took over advertising and distribution (from the departing Carol and Keith Buck respectively). At the start of 2018, Dave Wilmore replaced departing Stephen Mackinder as website news editor.

In July 2018, Rachael Thacker joined the website team (ensuring uninterrupted website updating) and also offered her design experience to the Triangle. However, unforeseen family and work commitments mean that, as of now, she will need to step down from her role, at least in the shorter term.

In the summer Jo Bradley made it known that she would have to stand down as Triangle co-editor owing to work commitments. We acknowledge her major contribution and thank her for what she has achieved since joining us at the start of 2017.

We were indeed fortunate that in late summer Gill Baker volunteered to take over the co-editor role.

6. Outlook

The future of both the Triangle and the website now seems to be secure, with new volunteers having offered their services at just the right time. The revised team is bedding in well.

A social media editor would improve the picture still further.

We recognize that team members' situations change, and that the team must inevitably evolve, so we still welcome further offers of assistance of whatever kind.

Our finances are such that we can manage any unforeseen cost increases without the need to raise Triangle subscriptions in the foreseeable future.

We thank all contributors and distributors and, as always, welcome additional cooperation from new contributors.

Finally, as always, we thank everyone out there who has helped make the website and Triangle a success in the past year, and we look forward to assisting even more residents in the coming year.

Jon Boots
Chairman

22 November 2018