

# SLINGSBY WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER GROUP

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Wednesday 2nd February 2022 at 7.30pm

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### 1. Introduction

This is the Slingsby Website and Newsletter Group's 2021 AGM, which was originally planned for November 2021, but which had to be deferred by force of circumstance. The Group is now in its eleventh year of operation.

This report will give a brief overview of key aspects of the Group's activities, and then look ahead to 2022.

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

The reporting year (from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020) started with the same uncertainty that had characterised the previous year, as we headed into lockdown 2 in November, followed by lockdown 3 in January.

At least the period overall seemed a little more settled in a business sense than the previous 12 months. Adaptations to the way we deliver our services and collect revenue were already reasonably well established during 2020. We believe our readers and website followers will have seen no interruption to normal service.

We allowed ourselves the time to celebrate our two anniversaries – the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Triangle in December 2020 and of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Village website on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

We were very encouraged to have new website team members joining us in the second half of the period.

#### 2. Finance

Our finances are in good shape, with income and expenditure remaining broadly stable. Our bank (HSBC) has thrown us the odd curve-ball during the year, and looks as if it may continue to do so.

Fortunately, our Treasurer, Caroline Edwards, had the skill and patience to deal with these annoyances. She has drawn up the detailed End of Year accounts, and they have been subject to independent inspection. Caroline has produced a Financial Report which provides a detailed analysis and summary of the accounts. Along with all our AGM reports, this is available here at the AGM and will be published online.

#### 3. Website

The number of news and events posts published by the website in this period was around 135, which represented a reduction to something nearer the pre-covid level. This was mainly because the copious additional advertising of food outlets, supports networks and other covid-related news in 2020 was not replicated this year.

Regarding the many information pages, we continue to hope that local community group leaders (e.g. the Parish Council, the churches, the Local History Group) will take ownership of the information we carry on their behalf and advise us when updates are needed.

As Website Editor, I made a start on familiarizing our four new website team members with WordPress (which manages content on our website) and with our working practices. The Test Bed (mainly a training site) proved very useful in this process.

Webmaster Richard Flint's activities this year included:

- refreshing the appearance of the website, with a new News Grid and header images which change with the seasons;
- updating software, including improving the experience for mobile users and replacing outdated plugins;
- with no help from Facebook Support, resolving a troublesome Facebook issue which had persisted through the summer.

Richard deserves our thanks for the excellent support he has continued to give the Slingsby website.

More information of a technical and statistical nature is given in his Webmaster's report.

#### 4. The Triangle

Our co-editors David Thornley and Gill Baker once again alternated to produce six full and entertaining issues. As in 2020, while there may have been fewer events to report on, there were plenty of interesting feature articles. Like us, I'm sure all subscribers will be very grateful for their continued efforts on this key village publication.

There were fewer difficulties this year around collection of subs and printing and delivery of The Triangle. Our advertising and distribution manager, Jo Breckon, managed all this well, while additionally taking on invoicing of the website's advertising. I'm very grateful to Jo for her commitment.

Our thanks are due to all the Triangle delivery team and all contributors to the publication.

The Triangle Editor's report and *[including?]* the advertising and distribution report will give more information.

#### 5. The Group

There have been several changes to membership of the Group during this period.

At the start of the year, website news editor Dave Wilmore moved away from Slingsby. The search for further help with the website had already been underway for several months and looked to be failing. It was therefore a pleasant surprise to find four volunteers coming forward in the second half of this reporting period.

The four new volunteers to the website team are Paul Hogarth, Mary Laird, Hannah Orchison and Ryan Perry. They bring with them a variety of skills and interests.

In April 2021, Richard Flint gave us early notice that he intended to step down from the Group by July 2022, while indicating that he might remain available for essential technical support only. We are extremely grateful to our website's architect and co-founder.

At the end of the year, we were sad to hear our Treasurer Caroline Edwards would need to step down from her role. Our thanks go to Caroline for all her excellent work.

#### 6. Outlook

The future of both The Triangle and the Village website seems to be reasonably secure in the medium term.

The most pressing concern in early 2022 is our search for a new Treasurer.

I will need to do more work (with Richard's assistance) to ensure the new website team members are fully up-to-speed and gel as a team.

Of course, we are aware that things can change quite quickly, with people moving away or sadly

being taken from us.

Furthermore, we must be realistic about being able to retain all our younger recruits, some of whom will perhaps follow their careers away from Slingsby.

Personally, I have long felt it inappropriate for one person to be both Chairman and Secretary, so a handover of one of these roles needs belatedly to happen this year. Some new energy and ideas at the top will be welcomed.

New bank charges, which we believe are now being introduced for all small charities and groups such as ours, have recently been imposed on us (without consultation). We expect to be able to absorb these and other possible cost increases, from our reserves, without the need to pass them on to subscribers and advertisers in the coming year.

To conclude, I wish to thank my fellow committee members and, as always, we the committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making the website and Triangle a success in the past year. We look forward to village activity returning to normal soon and to renewed cooperation with even more residents in the coming year.

Jon Boots  
Chairman and Secretary

24 January 2022