



## **Annual General Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

### **AGENDA**

- 1 Welcome & Introductions
- 2 Chairman's Report
- 3 Treasurer's Report
- 4 Election of Committee members
- 5 National Park Update
- 6 Members' Feedback and Ideas
- 7 Any Other Business
- 8 Close

# Chairman's Report for 2009–2010

## Introduction

The Village Association Committee currently comprises the following twelve members:

Brenda Varley (Women's Institute representative)

Brian Liddell

Emma Wright (Treasurer) to be replaced by Chris Hogg

Geoff Brown (PCC representative)

Christine Tinn

Katharine Brown

Margaret Lewis (Secretary)

Rachel Halliday (Institute representative)

Roger Westmoreland (Parish Councillor & Social Committee representative)

Sue Black

Sylvia Waring

Tony Ashton (Chairman)

The Committee has met on five occasions during the year. On other occasions some members of the Committee have met with the Lake District National Park(LDNP), Forestry Commission, Limefitt management and residents of Kentmere (as described later).

There have been two changes to the Committee since the last AGM. Harry Allen retired from the Committee in July. I wish to thank Harry for his contribution to the work of the Association and to his previous advice and involvement in the creation of the Parish Plan. Emma Wright announced her intention of moving out of Troutbeck later this year and as such her decision to resign from the Committee following this AGM. Emma will be continuing her work for the National Trust at Townend, but Chris Hogg, who will be moving into Townend following Emma's departure, expressed his wish to join in her stead. Chris was elected to the Committee in March.

Last year I outlined three principles we use in our work. These are:

- The Committee must reach a consensus before taking action. We feel that unless we are in complete agreement on a particular issue then it is very unlikely to be broadly acceptable to residents.

- We publish on the VA notice board (and more recently through emails- see later) details of all planning applications concerning Troutbeck. We take no stance on such applications leaving this as a matter for individual residents.
- We report all possible breaches of planning to the LDNP.

These principles continue to guide us.

## **Our Activities**

### **Limefitt Park**

I think I should start where we left off last year. If you recall we discussed at length our continuing concerns about:

- light pollution;
- the lack of site screening;
- the potential expansion of the site; and
- the absence of consultation on the extensive tree planting around the site.

At the last AGM we agreed on the need for the VA to discuss these concerns at the very highest levels of LDNPA.

After an exchange of letters with the Chairmen of the LDNPA and DEFRA, we finally secured a meeting with Richard Leafe, Chief Executive of LDNP. In late November Christine Tinn, Geoff Brown and I attended a meeting with Richard Leafe and Clive Wickham. At this meeting we received an acknowledgement from Richard Leafe that the LDNP had failed in their responsibility to consult the local community. We went on and spent some time discussing how we can achieve greater community consultation and cooperation in future.

Shortly after this meeting we received a letter from the Compliance Team confirming that no further expansion of the site could go ahead without planning consent and that in their opinion the site would not be extended beyond the existing planning boundary. We are unlikely to receive anything more positive than this.

In parallel with this initiative we continued to investigate the loss of trees on site. We obtained aerial photographs of the site taken in 2000 and 2003 and compared these with present day tree cover. In our opinion this showed a steady loss of trees on site and on this basis we wrote to LDNP requesting a tree preservation on the whole site. This was refused.

In early November we met with Limefitt management. We again pressed for more efforts on reducing lighting on site. They agreed that lighting on the Hay Barn would be switched off overnight. We also pressed for more motion sensor based lighting but received no commitments on this. We also expressed our disappointment that no progress had been made on developing a tree management for the site.

We will continue to press both Limefitt management and the Forestry Commission for the promised woodland plan for the site. In the meantime we continue to monitor the site for any evidence of illegal expansion or further tree felling.

## **Highways and Byways**

Throughout last year Margaret Lewis continued to press for improvements in the state of our roads. Potholes and drain cleaning were the main items on our agenda. However after the very heavy rains and prolonged snow and ice these were joined by our concerns at the total lack of snow clearing and gritting.

We wrote to Cumbria Highways describing the conditions and problems encountered during the prolonged period of snow and requested help to establish a self-help based snow clearing and gritting service for the village. This was later followed up with a letter from Roger Westmoreland. We are still awaiting developments.

In March at the request of the Council we supplied a list of the location and condition of grit bins in the Parish. There are in fact only four! Following our experiences over the winter we are now compiling a list of possible additional sites and would like your help in completing this list. If you have suggestions for additional bins please contact Margaret Lewis.

Whilst it might sound that these bins are all we might expect we shall continue to press the Council for self-help facilities.

February saw major road repairs in the village and we believe our pothole problems have been resolved for the present. If some potholes have been missed we urge you to report them directly to Cumbria Highways on their 24 hour hotline number (0845 6096609).

## **Garburn Track & Dubbs Road**

You may recall that in 2006 the LDNP designated the Garburn Pass as a 'restricted byway'. This meant it was only open to pedestrians, horses and cycles and not mechanically propelled vehicles (MPVs) such as 4 by 4s and trail bikes.

A challenge was made to this status by the Trail Riders Federation and as a result of this challenge the Planning Inspectorate issued an interim order decision to make the Garburn Pass a 'byway open to all traffic'. This would mean the track would become a public right of way open to all traffic, including MPVs.

The VA Committee has canvassed opinion on this matter and concluded that there was widespread support for objecting to this proposed change of use.

Accordingly, several members of the Committee collected evidence that would support overturning the decision. This evidence together with submissions from LDNP, Green Lanes Protection group and from residents in Kentmere is now with the Planning Inspector. The decision will be reviewed in the light of this new evidence and a final decision is expected later this year.

On a lighter note, I'm pleased to report that both the lower part of the Garburn Track and a major portion of Dubbs Road have been repaired. Whilst the VA have for some time been pressing for these tracks to be improved I have to say that the current repairs are entirely due to a grant from DEFRA in the case of Garburn and obligations on United Utilities in the case of Dubbs.

## **Footpath between Jesus Church and the Queens Head**

The VA continues to campaign for this footpath along the side of the A592. Last year through involvement with the Local Community Travel initiative we managed to get this initiative up to second on a list of local priorities. Geoff Brown is representing the VA on a Committee to progress the matter and we are awaiting an update on the likely timing of this work.

**Village Web Site** [www.troutbeck.org](http://www.troutbeck.org)

Brian Liddell continues to maintain the site and has recently expanded the historical information available on the site.

Following feedback from a number of residents we have introduced an email updating service. This provides subscribers with occasional emails which report what is posted on the VA notice board.

The site also allows users to subscribe to this email service and continues to provide users with the opportunity to provide feedback and ideas to the VA (anonymously if required).

### **Cumbria in Bloom**

The Association has once again been asked to take part in Cumbria in Bloom. In an attempt to avoid this being repeated each year we wrote explaining why the VA feels this is inappropriate in a village such as Troutbeck. No response has been received from the organisation and we continue to receive request to join the scheme.

### **Village Clear-up Day**

The Committee have on a number of occasions this year considered the possibility of arranging a 'clear-up day' in which a group of residents take it upon themselves to improve the general appearance of specific areas in the village, perhaps with a 'get-together' in the Institute afterwards for refreshments.

We propose to get feedback on such an initiative in the feedback section later in the meeting.

### **Woodlands and Invasive Weeds**

Katharine Brown continues to represent the VA on the 'Windermere Invasive Specied Group'. This Group, recently renamed, continues to champion the removal of invasive weeds across the Lakes Parish. In addition to the work on this group Katharine continues to liaise with a professional spraying company on the remaining areas of Japanese Knotweed and to organize the additional work required to finally clear any remaining areas of Himalayan Balsam.

### **Troutbeck Garden Trail**

The Association once again coordinated the 2009 Trail, with a separate committee formed to plan the event. The event was as usual held on the second May Bank Holiday Monday when twelve gardens were open to the public. This was complemented once again by a garden quiz, raffle and Institute home-made teas. The event also included several new features including:

- a plant and garden produce stall organised by Anthony Close;
- several children's attractions organised by Judith Cochrane, Jayne Musson and Christine Tinn;
- heritage information boards around the village produced by Brian Liddell and Janet Ashton and illustrated with sketches produced by Steve Kelly; and
- ice-cream sales to complement the Institute refreshments.

The event raised a record amount of nearly £6,000, which was distributed equally between the Institute, Jesus Church, First Responders and the VA.

### **Forthcomng Event**

Emma Wright, Custodian of Townend, has agreed to give an illustrated talk on 'The Library at Town End'. The library is rated as one of the top three libraries owned by the National Trust in the whole country. Emma's talk will cover background about the Browne family and Townend, illustrated with slides and short readings from some of the texts. The talk will be given in the Institute on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm. Tickets will be on sale at the door for £3, including a glass of wine

### **Finally**

I would once again like to thank all Troutbeck residents and Committee members for the help and support I have received during the year.

While we seek residents' feedback and views through the AGM all members of the Committee welcome all such feedback throughout the year. You can also provide the Association with feedback, anonymously or otherwise through the web site at [www.troutbeck.org](http://www.troutbeck.org)

Tony Ashton  
Chairman  
Troutbeck Village Association  
5<sup>th</sup> May 2010

# **Treasurer's Report**

## **For the Year Ended 31 March 2010**

<b>Receipts &amp; Payments Account</b>	<b>£</b>
Receipts	
25% profits from Garden Trail 2009	<b>1429.95</b>
Donations	<b>50.00</b>
Payments	
2009 AGM Expenses	<b>86.06</b>
Refreshments for Garden Trail volunteers	<b>42.42</b>
Mapping and aerial photography	<b>36.34</b>
Meeting Rooms	<b>60.00</b>
Surplus (loss) for the year	<b>1255.13</b>

### **Statement of Assets & Liabilities**

Cash Funds	
Bank Account balance as at 31 March 2009	<b>1305.88</b>
Surplus (loss) for the year	<b>1255.13</b>
Bank Account balance as at 31 March 2010	<b>2561.01</b>
Liabilities	
Cost of Web Site Hosting	<b>171.11</b>

Emma Rudkin  
Treasurer  
Troutbeck Village Association  
10<sup>th</sup> April 2010