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Newsletter September 2007

No 73

Public Meeting 26 July 2007: A.G.M. and “Going Like the Clappers”

The 16th Annual General Meeting of the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society was held on 26 July 2007. Chairman’s, Treasurer’s and Secretary’s reports were given and agreed. Brigadier John Heelis was re-appointed as President. Lance Thwaytes had resigned as Vice-President. R Ian Campbell was re-elected as Chairman; Vivienne Gate continues as Secretary but Treasurer Olive Airey stood down; Committee members Rosemary Spence, John Hodge, Anne Coles, Graham Coles and Judith Sowerby were re-elected. There were no nominations received for Treasurer. Ian volunteered to undertake this role on a temporary basis and urged members to give serious consideration to joining the Committee. Three amendments to the Constitution were agreed.

Following the business part of the meeting, Cllr Keith Budding gave a short presentation about the Moot Hall, its ongoing maintenance problems and proposals for its future. Society members were asked if they knew the whereabouts of any documents which might throw any light on previous work done on the building or if they knew of anyone involved in any repairs.

Then we welcomed Frank Harland, who gave his talk entitled, “Going Like the Clappers”, about Church Tower Bell ringing and Hand Bell ringing. He began with an explanation that English-style bell ringing is very different from European-style ringing in that it is based in church towers rather than towers in civil buildings. With the help of a wooden model, he demonstrated the various parts of the mechanism and how they worked and explained the techniques required, emphasising that it is technique rather than strength which achieves the results. In answer to a question about how big/heavy bells could be we were told that Liverpool Cathedral’s bells for ringing weigh about 4 tons and that this is about the maximum. There are heavier bells but they are not rung. The biggest bell in St Lawrence’s Church Tower weighs about half a ton. We learned that there are just two sorts of bell ringers – beginners and learners – and so began the highlight of the evening as Frank asked for volunteers. Three ‘willing’ audience members were given hand-bells and placed by Frank, who organised them in ‘numerical’ order to begin with. As Frank made 6 single changes in this numerical order it soon became clear just how much concentration is required to achieve these simple changes. Three more volunteers came forward and the complications and concentration increased. Obviously, it is not physically possible to change the order of bells in a bell-tower so the changes are effected by ringers making the changes. The Conductor of the Ringers carries the responsibility of the notes coming in the correct order. If mistakes are made, ringers cannot just stop and start again so they must carry on, and try to get it back on track. As Frank revealed the complexities of this art, he told amusing anecdotes from his very extensive bell-ringing career. Some of the terms associated with bell-ringing were explained, such as Plain Bob Minor, Cambridge Surprise Royal, Plain Bob Doubles and Stedman Caters. Along with the

demonstrations, Frank made available a hand-out in which details were given of Numbers (of bells) and Names (of changes and methods), Ringing the Changes and Building a Method. Anyone interested and wanting to learn more about this fascinating activity is very welcome to go along and meet the St Lawrence Bell Ringers. It was a very entertaining, enthralling and informative evening, made so by Frank's humour, enthusiasm and thorough knowledge.

Vivienne Gate

From the Chairman

Ridiculous And Malevolent Plan ("RAMP")

Your Committee has submitted a series of objections to the RSPCA proposal submitted for Planning approval by Eden District Council to construct a new ramp diagonally across the Sands for Horse Fair equine traffic into and out of the river. In essence, we wrote that:-

- 1 We see no need for a new ramp.
- 2 The plan violates a European Special Area of Conservation AND an SSSI site; it would result in a serious loss of amenity to the town, both visually and in changing for the worse a recreation area for residents and visitors.
- 3 There are several serious health and safety implications.
- 4 The ramp might well seriously impair the stability of the river bank.
- 5 It is not clear who would be responsible for maintaining, repairing and insuring the ramp.

We have asked that the matter be considered by a full Planning Committee and not left to planning officers to decide, and have asked for a site visit so that the officers concerned can meet Society representatives.

There is a lot more in our submission and, if you would like to see a full copy, please feel free to contact me or John Hodge.

You still have time – why not express YOUR view to the Planning Department at Eden District Council.

Appleby Town Council

As you know, I want very much to encourage working WITH the Town Council and to get away from constant carping at them, but they do make it very difficult. At the Town Meeting I asked if we could know the job descriptions of the Council's employees. After some correspondence, the answer is, basically, "No", because the employees themselves do not wish their terms of reference to be divulged. I am not sure that this is a valid position but I can't be bothered to find out if it is or not; meanwhile we are left to compose for ourselves a list of the tasks these employees – **our** employees (we pay their wages) – do for us and what they are not responsible for. Thus we are left to compile the Job Descriptions from the scraps we can glean from non-secret Council meetings and personal experience of dealings with the employees. Well, it will give me something to write about in future weeks!

Committee, etc

Your Committee thought that we did not want totally to lose the wise counsel and detailed knowledge of Appleby possessed by Olive, so we invited her to become a Vice-President of the Society. I am delighted to announce that she has accepted the invitation. We have had a volunteer to become our Treasurer and Maggie Clowes will take over with immediate effect. Similarly, Mrs Rosina Mansfield has volunteered to become a Committee member and has been co-opted.

Projects

A sub-committee is thinking hard about the project to make a DVD presentation about Lady Anne Clifford in the Eden Valley to be sold as a QUALITY souvenir of Appleby, etc. and, similarly, people are thinking about the best approach for cataloguing the Society archive, with a view to getting this difficult chore done in slow time ready to leap into action when we can get some accommodation for the actual archive material. Finding a home for the archive is **a declared objective of the Society** and we need to find somewhere soon otherwise the search will drift on for years more. I want to break the mould of Appleby projects and really get something done about this so, please, can any of YOU help. We need three or four rooms, warm, dry and secure but accessible, to store our valuable items, papers, photos, slides, maps, etc.

PenPay

Cllr Patterson must have had a secret way to get money out of Olive (ex-Treasurer) for Graham Coles to have been paid for his effusions! (See below.) Why didn't Vivienne or I get paid?

R Ian Campbell

Appleby Accolades

This edition's accolade goes to Luke Wimbridge, Australian cricket professional, and to other club members, friends and supporters who have played a part in encouraging so many youngsters to give cricket a try. Anyone who wanders past the cricket field on any Sunday morning during the season can see the results of Luke's enthusiasm and drive as more than 100 youngsters take advantage of coaching sessions, etc.

Vivienne Gate

History Slot

Let There Be Light - a postscript

In the final part of our history of Appleby's gas and electricity supply we drew attention to the fact that the town was not pleased when it learned that it would still have to pay a 'butane gas surcharge' after it was connected to the national natural gas grid. Keith Morgan, Mayor at the time, has written to point out that he wrote to the Prime Minister about it and was pleasantly surprised when the Council received a letter from British Gas saying that the surcharge was to be withdrawn "immediately". We are pleased to add this important historical fact to the record.

Graham Coles

Appleby New Fair 2007 - A Personal Perspective

We try to add a little more to the history of the Fair when we can - usually in our July Newsletters when the events of the current year are still fresh in our minds. Lack of space prevented anything this July which, with the benefit of hindsight, was fortunate as two very important meetings were held this July.

The July 2006 Newsletter took the story of the New Fair to April 1975, a good point at which to begin this article.

I was invited to a public meeting on 9 July and asked to outline the relevance of the '1685 King James II Charter' to Appleby New Fair. As members already know, the Charter was not enrolled and, consequently, had no effect and could not have authorised New Fair. I ended my short talk with the following words, "I am neither for nor against the Fair but I am in favour of it being controlled as it seems to have been when Appleby Borough Corporation, North Westmorland Rural District Council and Westmorland County Council took an interest in it. Sadly, local authority interest in the Fair has declined to almost nil over the past 30 years, to an extent where Appleby's residents are left to fend for themselves."

I said that before the 120 residents who attended the meeting were invited to comment. A further 56 were at a meeting of the New Fair Joint Committee which met the following day. Nothing they said prompted me to change my mind, which is a shame as Cllr Ella Langan has, since she became Chairman of NFJC in April 2006, tried to make a difference. She is, however, fighting a battle she cannot win until major changes are brought about.

When she persuaded the Committee to form itself into working groups which would concentrate on various aspects of the Fair which would then be co-ordinated by the main committee, the Society became interested. When we were invited to join the Infrastructure Working Group we accepted. Here, at last, was an opportunity to make a difference. The definition of 'infrastructure' is the basic structure of an organisation or system, something the NFJC lacks, and the Society looked forward to being able to influence the future. Our dreams were shattered when we learned that the Infrastructure Working Group was to concentrate on 'toilets, bins and cleaning'. Its Chairman was Keith Morgan, a prominent member of Eden District Council, which has overall responsibility for 'toilets, bins and cleaning' and one of the leading lights on the group was Dennis George, also of E.D.C. The group met just once, in October 2006, and its influence on the way in which the Fair was managed in 2007 was nil.

Prior to this year's Fair, a *Herald* headline read, "Optimism as Appleby Prepares for New Fair" (2 June). Anyone reading the article must have been impressed. No more litter; new signage; more police; an explanatory leaflet; a continuous 12 hour litter-pick and road cleaning operation on each day of the Fair; more litter bins; extra bins provided by a local publican to be emptied by District Council contractors; Shire Hall toilets reopened; Broad Close, Public Hall and T.I.C. toilets to be continuously cleaned for 12 hours each day. One could almost look forward to eating one's picnic sitting cross-legged on the floor of Broad Close toilets. Unfortunately, most of the promises were broken, a point well made by members of the public who spoke at the two meetings mentioned above.

Following the Fair, headlines read, "Appleby Horse Fair is out of control and needs reforming" (*Cumberland News*); "Appleby treated as a rubbish dump" (*Herald*); "Investigation into Drowning Horror" (*Herald*); "Appleby New Fair an Environmental Disaster" (*Herald*); "Gathering out of Control" (*Herald*); "Anne Widdicombe Describes Fair as a Health and Safety Nightmare" (*Messenger*); "Call for Fundamental Rethink over Complaint Hit Appleby Travellers Fair" (*Herald*); and, worst of all, "Councillor labelled 'Murderous Old Hag' over Death of Horse" (*Herald*). This criticism levelled at Ella Langan was, indeed, unwarranted and unfair but, sadly, she cannot avoid the flak as the Society has previously reminded her that, until there is a properly identifiable management structure for the Fair, SHE is IT and all the flak (and possibly writs) will be directed at her. She has been warned. However, this is not to detract from the sheer rottenness of the accusation.

The only positive headline read, "2007 Fair 'One of the Best'" and you had to read on to find out who thought that! Apparently, the travellers did (but this was not their view at either meeting I

attended) and the police did (although just what justified such a view was hard to ascertain). The ambulance service made it quite clear in the same article that it was not impressed. A North West Ambulance spokesman described the Fair as “obscene”. Having listened to the criticism levelled at E.D.C. and its contractors during the New Fair Joint Committee meeting on 10 July, Dennis George bravely told Barry McKay, “We did well” and immediately disappeared back into his teapot for another year.

One positive note was the announcement by Chief Superintendent Davidson, the policeman who runs Appleby from distant Carlisle. He told the NFJC that the police run the Fair, with support from the Committee. At last, someone who accepts responsibility after all these years!

The *Herald* headline following the two meetings read, “Call to Curb New Fair’s Glorified Car Boot Sale” as townsfolk and organisers are “Overwhelmed”. That was nearer the mark and it is this headline which must concentrate the minds of the NFJC members for the remainder of this year.

The Chairman, Cllr Langan, promised that all meetings of the Committee Working Groups and all meetings of the Committee would be advertised on the Town Council’s notice board at the Tourist Information Centre. Let’s not quibble. I know that the NFJC has nothing to do with the Town Council - Ella keeps saying so - but if she wants to use the Council’s notice board to alert us to meetings which, she says, will be open to the public, we should encourage her. By the way, she also promised that future meetings would be held during the evening to encourage attendance by members of the public. Finally, in order to emphasise the fact that the NFJC is not part of the Council, the Town Clerk was there to take the minutes. I presume she did this out of the kindness of her heart as I would hate to think that the Clerk was being paid by the Council.

“STOP!” I hear you shout. What has any of this to do with history? I will seek to justify myself. You will recall that I mentioned the way it was 30 years ago. I was not alone in recalling that time as several residents and farmers did the same and those whose memories are long enough, including three traveller representatives, present at the meetings, simply wanted the Fair to revert to the way it was 25 or 30 years ago. So, what do we know about the period immediately following the dissolution of the three local authorities I referred to in my opening paragraph? Space is tight, so I will refer members to the July 2006 Newsletter in which we remarked on the embryonic Eden District Council’s concerns. The shadow E.D.C. Health Committee, which was chaired by Charles Hirst of Appleby, met in August 1973 to discuss the 1974 Fair. It would be too late to leave discussions until the formation of the District Council in April 1974. There is no doubt that E.D.C. once accepted it was the prime mover when it came to the Fair.

Let me deal now with the horse which drowned in 2007. Barry McKay rightly drew attention to the fact that, had it been a child, it would have merited less attention. The drowned horse made the national press and television. When a Bishop Auckland boy drowned during the 1975 Fair, the one and only press report took up five short paragraphs. And let me give space to the concerns expressed by the travellers I met at the two meetings. They were appalled by the suggestion made on T.V. by a police officer that “it was tradition that horses’ heads had to be immersed to give the animals strength”.

In 1975 E.D.C. agreed to write to Cumbria Tourist Board to complain about the ‘idiotic’ decision to publicise the Fair as a tourist attraction. Cllr Craddock, Kirkby Stephen, suggested that the T.V. and radio should not draw attention to the Fair as they made it the ‘outlandish’ thing it had become. Cllr Hirst told the local press that the Fair had received too much publicity and it was no longer the picturesque event it once was. Nobody, not even the travellers, were happy with the way it had been run. That year (1975), senior officers of police and fire met with representatives of Eden and Appleby Councils on a daily basis to discuss the situation. The police arranged for two

superintendents to be on duty to cover the Fair throughout each 24 hour period. The press reports following the 1975 Fair were very different to those of 2007. "Quiet Fair - Thank Heavens" was typical. The 500 caravans had been confined to Fair Hill. No one had been allowed to park up prior to the opening day. Sightseers were moved on by the police. In 1974 Mr Reg Hunter of Croft Ends was enraged by the amount of broken glass, excrement and rubbish left in his fields. In 1975, stricter control had left him much happier. Mr and Mrs Bousfield of Hungriggs said that no vans had been allowed to park at the end of their lane and trespass was reduced to almost nil. The town centre was much quieter. Mr Hirst said, "I think the police did a pretty good job in containing the Fair." He thought that some travellers had been deterred when they learned that the Fair was going to be properly managed. Above all, perhaps, was an announcement made at Epsom Races to the effect that Appleby's pubs were to be closed for the duration. (In the event, only two pubs closed.)

Sadly, the evidence suggests that this was probably the last occasion on which the 'authorities' pulled together. On the other hand, the evidence of 1975 shows that it can be done. Perhaps instead of advertising the Fair as a tourist attraction, the opposite tack might be taken. Local byelaws could be introduced to enable public houses to be closed and alcohol sales prohibited; drinking alcohol in a public place could be banned; fixed penalties for disorderly conduct could be imposed (as they were during Carnival weekend a month later). No vans should be allowed to park up in public places. Police should remind themselves of the 'broken window syndrome' (if you allow small things to go unnoticed or unpunished you quickly lose control of an escalating situation).

Those residents who spoke at the two meetings in July and others who wrote to the press were as one when complaining of drunkenness, excreta (not all horse), urine, rowdiness, litter and damage. It is all very well for Chief Superintendent Davidson, who runs Appleby from distant Carlisle, to claim that Appleby was quieter during the Fair than Carlisle is on a typical Saturday night. We live in Appleby, not Carlisle, and we have a right to expect our normal, fairly peaceful, town to be kept that way by a team of police who spend £230,000 (latest figures – see below) of public money to keep it so. (As for residents of Carlisle, if they allow their town to be like Appleby during Fair Week, more fools them.) Police must learn to support local residents and not dismiss their concerns arbitrarily. Police must obtain a Traffic Regulation Order if they want to scatter the town with "No Waiting" cones for an eight-day non-emergency situation (we have not heard the last of this). E.D.C. should stop talking nonsense and begin to do something about litter and street cleaning. Above all, the New Fair Joint Committee should stop having cosy chats and ensure that the Fair is managed as it seems to have been 30 years ago.

It might be difficult to curtail the massive car boot sale into which the once-proud horse fair has degenerated, but it is not impossible.

I note with a sense of hope that Eden District Council's Scrutiny Committee has agreed, at long last, to take a look at its responsibilities for the Fair.

These notes were on their way to Vivienne when I received a letter from Cumbria Constabulary about the use of traffic cones during this year's Fair. It now seems that Chief Superintendent Davidson was not talking out of turn when he told the New Fair Joint Committee that the police now manage the Fair. Inspector Skelton (Appleby) has confirmed that the police have now 'assumed' responsibility for all major event planning within Cumbria and that a Civil Contingencies and Protective Security Unit has been established at Force Headquarters for just such a purpose. I suspect that his use of the word 'assumed' might be correct as I'm sure that Cllr Langan, Chairman of the New Fair Joint Committee, was unaware, until Inspector Skelton wrote his letter. She knows now!!

We have been provided with some of the costs of this year's Fair. The police spent £230,000 and Eden District Council's costs were £11,962. We do not yet know the cost to Cumbria County

Council (signs, advertisements, etc.). The only identifiable income was £1,430 to Appleby Town Council. (Figures courtesy of Appleby Town Council.)

Graham Coles

Current Affairs - a commentary

The latest batch of Town Council minutes to reach me were accompanied by a plea from the Town Clerk, "Please ask Graham to be kind when he prepares his response." Why would I not be?

Singalong with Clare

I don't know where you were on the evening of 11 July but you should have been in Appleby's new Music Hall, otherwise known as the Moot Hall. In the Mayor's absence, the meeting was chaired by Cllr Patterson, who burst into a fit of the giggles when announcing one agenda item. Councillors Budding and Thwaytes had spent time working on a much simplified way in which to present the Council's accounts. Readers might consider this was a helpful contribution but, apparently, the deputy mayor didn't think so. She chuckled, "Budding and Thwaytes - sounds like Flanagan and Allan" and proceeded to sing the first verse of 'Underneath the Arches'. To be fair, she has a half decent singing voice. We should hear more of it - but not, please, in the Council chamber. To reinforce the image of Music Hall, chocolates were passed around at one point. I was offered one but refused, politely, on the grounds that I would have to declare an interest at future Society meetings if I accepted such a bribe. In amongst the singing (but not dancing) Councillors did attempt a modicum of rational debate - but only a modicum.

Before the meeting proper, Sue Fell, formerly of Appleby Alliance fame, but now carving another niche at Eden District Council, spent almost half an hour trying to enlist Councillor support for a multi-purpose games area on King George's Field. (Now we know why E.D.C. was so keen to have its charitable status removed.) The area immediately behind the public toilets is the preferred site for an 'L'-shaped 'games wall' on which will be painted goal posts, cricket stumps and targets. Also on the wall would be netball hoops. Nearby there might be a youth shelter where youngsters could congregate and call the space their own. There might even be room for a skateboard park. To qualify for government grant aid, the facilities would have to be open 24/7. Apparently the staff and residents of Edenside think it's a jolly good idea. The big question was, "What does the Town Council think?" Mrs Fell will submit a paper to Eden District Councillors in September. Appleby Councillors promised to think about it in September. That's all right then. No further action required.

No one is in a rush at the Moot Hall, least of all the Town Clerk. Cllr Connell was a bit fussed about the minutes of 13 June meeting. He had not said that the 625 bus was well-used by Applebians. As it went to Penrith via the fellside it was hardly likely to be. He hoped that this false impression had not been conveyed in the letter the Town Clerk was instructed to write to Cumbria County Council. He needn't have worried. The Town Clerk had been far too busy to write the letter - after all, it was only four weeks since she had been instructed to write. Neither had she had time to collate the information from the few returned questionnaires sent out about the T.I.C. Again, she had been too busy. We learned that only 5.8% of Appleby households had responded. Closing date for replies had been 20 June - three weeks previously.

The one item I had gone along for was at the tail-end of a long agenda. Council was going to consider the criticisms (feedback) contained in our January Newsletter. Councillor Thwaytes had prepared a critique which the Town Clerk had circulated along with a copy of our 'offending' pages. Several Councillors stared at her with glazed expressions. Apparently a technical fault with the Clerk's electronic equipment had meant that very few had received any information. Result -

matter put back to a Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 30 July, which Councillor Thwaytes will be unable to attend!

I am now half way through my allotted two pages and there is so much I would like to tell you - the backlog is serious.

Back to the July Council meeting. There was another music hall moment when Councillors discussed changes to their committee structure. I had heard that the crazy system whereby every Councillor was a member of both main committees was to be ended. Good thing, too, I thought. Councillors considered how they could divide sixteen by two but gave up after a struggle. Then Cllr Pape asked why they were bothering as it had been agreed that, even though the committees would be smaller, all Councillors could turn up and vote at either committee. I did not laugh - promise. That prompted Cllrs Morgan and Langan, until now staunch custodians of tradition, to declare that such an arrangement was "perverse". After a vote, it was agreed that Councillors who were not appointed to committees could attend meetings but would not vote. PROGRESS AT LAST. Then came the best bit. Try as they might they could not decide which Councillors would sit on which committee. That difficult decision was postponed.

One snippet of news leaked out. The cost of cleaning the Shire Hall toilets during Fair Week was given as 'over £1500' and the cost of painting before it re-opened was £160. Electric and water bills will be settled by E.D.C. (as we said they would have to be) and our Council will be billed later. Nothing has been received from E.D.C. prior to the meeting. Members will recall that E.D.C. offered the Council £1920. Not much profit there then.

Final item of the evening was Cllr Budding's attempt to get members to discuss his paper on obtaining charitable status for the Council's properties. That failed as well. Why? Councillors had not received his paper which was to have been circulated.

Flanagan and Allan or Fred Karno - take your pick.

The above paragraphs were drafted on the morning after the 11 July Council meeting and before I had stopped chuckling but matters became more serious when the Finance and General Purposes Committee met on 30 July. By then Councillors had done the hard bit - divided themselves into two groups. Both committees met on the same evening so they played non-musical chairs in order to bring 'real' committee members nearer to the Chair whilst non-committee members decided whether they were still Councillors (by sitting in another Councillor's seat) or members of the public (by removing themselves to the spectator benches). Once again the main purpose of my visit was to listen to the debate into Cllr Thwaytes' critique of our Newsletter. The agenda had been quite clear ; Councillors were expected to read an extract from our Newsletter and Cllr Thwaytes' report before coming to the meeting. What was equally clear was that they had not. The Chairman, Cllr Ian Potts, introduced the item by first reading from the agenda and then reminding Councillors that they were there to consider "Lance's paper, which was referred to this committee from the July Council meeting because a hitch with the Clerk's e-mail system meant that not enough of us had read it". The 'debate' was opened by Cllr Patterson who said that the Newsletter was one person's opinion and if the Society was willing to pay him, more fool them. The Chairman looked a little non-plussed. Clearly he had expected his colleagues to read the papers before attending. He said that the Council should not seek to stifle criticism. He went on to say that Cllr Thwaytes was trying to be helpful by drawing attention to areas where there was a need to improve as it was clear that the Council did not always adhere to the rules. The Clerk suggested a way out of the impasse. Why not defer the item to the Council meeting in September? This was quickly agreed. The Chairman added a rider. All Councillors should study the documents (our Newsletter and Cllr Thwaytes' report on it) and prepare themselves for a meaningful discussion, otherwise the meeting would

descend into an “unseemly free for all”. We’ll see. Interestingly, (or perhaps not) the Minutes of the July meetings recorded that everything went well on the night!

I also noticed that the names of the Councillors in attendance were recorded in alphabetical order. One small step for the Town Clerk; one giant leap for the Council.

By the way, whilst I have no need to tell our members that I am not “paid” to contribute to this Newsletter, perhaps I should make it clear to Councillor Patterson that I am not and never have been.

Graham Coles

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

At the Council meeting held 12 September 2007 Councillors accepted that the criticisms (feedback) contained in our May 2007 Newsletter were valid; said they would do their best to improve and thanked the Society for drawing their shortcomings to attention.

A full report will be included in our November meeting.

Graham Coles

Committee Meeting 7 August 2007

Matters Arising from Minutes for 29 May 2007: Memorial Trees – newly-planted tree has been vandalised. E-mail about charitable status of King George Playing Fields from Rocky Sharrock circulated; Explorer Films – further meeting held at which matters of concern were raised. Meeting with Dybecks arranged for 17 August; Publications – history of the Fair to be the first publication.

Reports:

Treasurer/Membership – Maggie Clowes to undertake the role of Treasurer. Members renewing steadily.

Planning/Townscape – letter to be sent to County Cllr Mary Warburton about the ‘snagging’ repairs required following completion of townscape works. John went through the list of applications he had seen. Letter of objection from the Society to go to E.D.C. about the proposed ramp on The Sands.

Appleby New fair Joint Committee – minutes of July meetings available.

Shire Hall – now on the market.

Cemetery Chapel – concern expressed at the lack of Treasurer and lack of accounts.

Chamber of Trade and Community Association – music weekend organised 7-9 September 2007. Disappointing that not more traders support the Association. Parish Plan might be helpful but initiative has to come from Town Council.

Vice President(s): Olive to be invited to be a Vice-President.

Future Programme Speakers/Visits: progress being made on 2007/2008 programme. Sundial Safari attracting lots of interest.

Cumbria Local History Federation: reminder given that the Annual Convention and A.G.M. to be held at Newton Rigg on 22 September 2007. Several copies of latest Bulletin received – for distribution to members.

2008 Exhibition: Theme – Businesses and Shops, Old and New. Current traders to be approached to see if they may have items/information/photos which could be included. (If any members have anything they might be willing to loan, please speak to Ian/Vivienne/Anne Coles)

Request from PC D Mattinson: for assistance with an observation exercise to assess the nuisance of ‘boy racers’. PC Mattinson to be advised that the Society not able to help on this occasion.

Correspondence received: CLHF Bulletins and AGM notice; letter from Keith Morgan; letter from Staveley History Group; Windermere and Bowness Civic Society Newsletter; FOCAS Newsletter; letter from Olive.

Next Meeting: to be held 9 October 2007, 7.30 p.m., 5 Friary Park.

From the Secretary

Gentle Reminder about Subs: For those who have not yet sent in their forms and payments.

Revised Constitution: the amendments agreed at the A.G.M. have now been incorporated and a copy is enclosed for reference.

Programme 2007/2008:

- 29 November 2007 Colin Smith: “Milestones Past and Present – an illustrated talk about the work of The Milestone Society in Cumbria”. Colin is the Cumbria representative of The Milestone Society, which was founded in 2001. It aims to identify, record, research and interpret the milestones and other waymarkers.
- 10 December 2007 Graham Coles’ slide evening. Please note that the venue for this will be the Methodist Meeting room. Full details later.
- 31 January 2008 John Falshaw: will give an illustrated talk either on Mardale or Orton. To be confirmed.
- 27 March 2008 Mrs Eileen Risk and Gordon Bowness: “Creating a Parish Archive”. Gordon is Chairman of Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council and Eileen is Secretary of the Parish Archive Committee. They will tell us how the idea of having a parish archive arose, what steps were taken to achieve the project and how the archive is being used.
- 24 April 2008 Evening visit to Haweswater Dam/Pumping Station and Museum. Full details to follow.

29 May 2008 Mr Chris Robson: “3,000 years of Human Settlement in the Eden Valley”. Having studied history at Oxford and spending over 30 years teaching the subject, his interest spread to pre-history and the historical geography of the Eden Valley. He will tell us something of the very early story of our area.

31 July 2008 Annual General Meeting and then Adrian Waite: “The Red Wyvern Society”. Adrian is Secretary, Treasurer and Captain of this Society. His wife, Elaine, is Chairperson, Events Organiser and Cook. The Red Wyvern Society was founded in 1996 and is a re-enactment society portraying the day-to-day lives of the Clifford household of the 15th century. An interesting evening is in prospect as we hear about the Society and its activities.

In addition to these events, two more visits are being considered: one to Keswick Museum – to see the “Musical Stones and Dead Cat’s Bones” and the other to Winton Hall. Full details to be confirmed and advertised.

Next Meeting

**Thursday 27 September 2007
7.30 p.m. Supper Room, Market Hall**

“Planning for an Emergency”

Mr Chris Briggs, Cumbria County Council’s Emergency Planning Officer, comes to tell us about his role and the work of the Emergency Planning Unit. Two emergencies dealt with recently are the Grayrigg train crash and flooding.

The Society's website address is:
www.applebysociety.force9.co.uk

If you have enjoyed reading this Newsletter and are not already a member of the *Appleby-in-Westmorland Society*, you could have it delivered free to your home six times a year simply by joining the Society.

A £6 individual/£10 family subscription also entitles you to attend six bi-monthly meetings free. These are usually held in the Supper Room of the Market Hall on the last Thursday of January, March, May, July (our A.G.M. meeting), September and November at 7.30 in the evening.

Application forms are available at the Library.

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