



NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

## **Newsletter September 2005**

**No 61**

### **Public Meeting 28 July 2005**

Following the formal business of our Annual General Meeting, Mrs Sarah Hale, Eden District Council's Community Safety Officer gave us an interesting insight into the work of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership. Her opening remark pointed out that her job title can cause some confusion and she stressed that she was not involved with Health and Safety or public health. Community Safety Officers were introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which obliges local authorities to create partnerships aimed at reducing crime and disorder. Eden District Council is in "partnership" with Carlisle City Council, Cumbria Fire Service, the National Health service and Cumbria Constabulary. These partners have set up five 'task groups' to look at community safety, public reassurance, drugs and alcohol, young persons and current and repeat offenders. The task groups formulate ideas, develop projects and ensure that project aims are delivered. Partnership working avoids duplication, improves the use of scarce resources and has a greater impact. The partnership is accountable to the Government Office North West, which sets targets for crime reduction. Eden District must reduce crime by 12.6% between April 2005 and March 2008.

Crime is low throughout Eden and falls mainly into three categories: criminal damage, theft and offences against the person. Up to £307, 360 is available from various funding bodies to be spent on a variety of initiatives such as diversity training, removal and prevention of graffiti, youth projects, persistent offenders, anti-social behaviour and Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch schemes. The partnership also operates a Safer Homes Scheme, which can be accessed by residents. As well as providing crime prevention advice, the scheme offers free installation of anti crime devices in appropriate cases.

A full-time Community Involvement Officer works alongside the Community Safety Officer, operating in the "field", dealing with neighbour disputes, anti-social behaviour and persistent offenders. Almost 50% of crimes are committed by these persistent offenders.

Ms Hale responded to a number of questions from her interested audience. When thanking her for an informative talk, the Chairman wondered why the Government Office North West gave targets to District Councils whilst the Home Office sets targets for Chief Constables. No good reasons sprang to mind, however.

Sarah Hale can be contacted by e-mail at [sarah.hale@eden.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hale@eden.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01768 212279.

The report of the evening appeared in *The Herald* on 10 September 2005.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was well attended. Brigadier John Heelis and Lancelot Thwaytes KSG kindly agreed to continue as our President and vice-President. The Revd Canon Dr Peter Norton, having moved away from the area, felt unable to continue as vice-President and tendered his resignation. The current serving officers, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, were returned. Committee members David Furniss, Rosemary Spence and John Hodge were also re-elected. David Thomas, whose duties on the Parochial Parish Council have increased recently, and Patricia Clough, who is planning to move away from Appleby, did not wish to stand for re-election. There were no nominations received for Committee members and we began the new year with two vacancies.

Please see below for extracts from the Chairman's Report. A copy of the Secretary's Report and the audited accounts are enclosed separately.

### **From the Chairman**

This year's annual report was my ninth. Next year's will be my tenth and last. Ten years is long enough for any organisation and, despite your continuing confidence which I treasure, it is time for a change. Last year I ended my report by looking forward to an even busier 2004/5 and so it proved to be. The following paragraphs are the key points from my address.

The Society is blessed with a truly remarkable Membership – not only numerically, but also in its determination to support both the Society and its Committee. The Committee works very well together and we are co-ordinated by a Secretary and Treasurer who deserve a special 'thank you' from us all.

I would like to be able to record a list of clear wins during the year. There were a few but, by and large, our activities have been confined to persuading the authorities to think again.

"We pestered the Town Council for better access to Council minutes. They now appear in the Parish Newsletter for everyone to read. A success? Nearly – but there are still too many references to Councillor 'so and so' giving a verbal report about this or that – and we have no idea what was said. Eden District Council does much the same thing. That needs to change.

We said we would support our Town Council in its bid for funding from the Vital Villages Scheme and to become a Quality Parish Council – and we will – once it makes a start on either or both!

'Appleby Smarter' is a Town Council initiative and it worked well for a while. Now it seems that the Council is awaiting the outcome of meetings aimed at restructuring the Chamber of Trade. We're not sure why and, in any case, Appleby cannot wait for ever so we have decided to kick start the voluntary litter collection scheme ourselves.

It is now clear that neither the Town Council nor the District Council has done anything to save the Shire Hall. An offer by Appleby Alliance to work with the Council was rebuffed by Councillors a few months ago. At that point the Society determined to form its own sub-committee to have one more try before it was too late. That prompted the Town Council to invite Appleby Alliance for talks! We are keeping a watching brief to see if anything actually happens. The Society is grateful to Ian Campbell who kindly 'volunteered' to head our sub-committee.

The townscape refurbishment has still to start. The Society campaigned very hard to see the first set of Capita's proposals rejected and we heard nothing more of them. They wouldn't even supply copies of their ideas for the archive! Since then we have lobbied to get agreement for something as close as possible to the scheme agreed in Appleby by Applebians in 2001. To date we have been successful and the only major departure from the '2001' scheme may be the use of 'Lazonby' sandstone on the footpaths, but we continue to press for previously agreed york stone.

There is no doubt that the Society was instrumental in persuading the District Council to think again about public toilets. The Society continues to be represented on the Town Council's working party on toilets.

We submitted our views on the future of Coronation Park to the District Council. We have repeatedly warned the District Council and the Town Council that footpaths and railings in the park are in a dangerous condition but nothing has been done. The problems appear to be getting worse. Just recently large lumps of concrete weighing up to half a hundredweight fell several feet into the play area. We must hope and pray that it doesn't take the injury to a child to prompt action by the authorities.

We have met with some success on the planning front. We continue to monitor all planning applications giving close attention to those within the conservation area. All too often we have to remind the District Council that buildings are listed and, therefore, subject to separate planning applications. We think it is the Council's job to do that but it seems content to rely on the applicant to submit the correct application and not to notice if he doesn't. We objected to three-storied buildings on 'land off Colby Lane', on the ground that three-storied buildings were inappropriate in an area dominated by bungalows. Our views were rejected. We have noted that a District Council in the North East did much the same thing and now has a bill for half a million pounds following an appeal. Not only did that Council permit the building of three-storied buildings where there had only been bungalows, it also allowed them to be built before the appeal was finalised. Let's hope Eden District Council takes note.

We have used the Freedom of Information Act when appropriate. It is a very useful tool in our armoury.

As our year drew to a close we had a vexed 'New Fair'. No one would accept responsibility for what went wrong; some very dodgy claims were made about its effect on the local economy; consultants have recommended the transformation of the Fair into a business opportunity; there is a proposal for a new access ramp for horses. Your Society is seeking information relating to the actual costs of the Fair and we will object to the ramp when a full planning application is submitted.

The only item 'crossed off' the list during the year was regional government but even that will not go away. Notice how the newly formed 'Cumbria Vision' (the quango charged with leading the county's economic recovery) has punished District Councils by requiring them to join together and appoint one representative. In our case, Carlisle and Eden have been put together by the North West Development Agency (the financial arm of Government Office North West) and a Carlisle City Councillor will 'look after' Eden's interests. Eden claims it is not best pleased but what did it expect when it challenged the Deputy Prime Minister by arguing the case for a combined Carlisle and Eden unitary authority?

The more pleasurable parts of our work continue. Our archive is growing and we continue to be invited to promote the history and well being of Appleby to local groups. We could do with an archivist – any volunteers?"

### Words

I like words and I have great respect for writers and commentators who use them well. Now and again we are privileged to witness the birth of a literary giant – someone who may well head Number Ten's spin department one day. Sadly, we do not know who this anonymous star in the making is but we do have a clue – he or she works for the Director of Policy and Performance at Eden District Council. The following paragraphs are dedicated to our unknown wordsmith.

The Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic Partnership was formed in 2002. Since then “much positive work” has been undertaken. The Partnership has given us a “partnership through performance”; a “singing community project” and a “community strategy”.

The “Carlisle and Eden Community Strategy: A Vision for the Future” document was published in 2003. Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council promised to work “closely together to improve the quality of life” in the two communities. Both councils undertook to “listen to the people” (just like our Prime Minister), to pool efforts and resources and tackle problems. We were told that the residents “want to work together” and that the councils would “harness our energy and enthusiasm”. That was just the introduction – it got better.

It was said that Carlisle and Eden could not work in isolation and that, by bringing us together, the councils could raise standards in schools, improve the quality of life for young and old, improve housing and health, create safer communities, transform the local environment, provide for our transport needs and promote our economic vitality. It was an awesome list.

Appleby’s representatives on the Partnership were Appleby Alliance and the Grammar School. We wished them well in their endeavours and waited ..... and waited and .....

Enter our unknown wordsmith who, in July 2005, wrote a long report for Eden’s Councillors informing them that the Partnership had not progressed as well as it should have done. There were a number of “inhibiting factors”, which hindered a “promising start”, such as a decline in partner participation and a general lack of interest. By mid 2004 the partnership was deemed to be “stagnant”.

The fact that it was dead on its feet in 2004 did not find its way into Issue 3 of the Carlisle and Eden Partnership’s Newsletter in March 2005. This six page ‘glossy’ told us that all was well. The co-chairmen of the Partnership, Cllr Nineham of Penrith and Cllr Bloxham of Carlisle, said in their introduction that they were encouraged by the turnout at a recent meeting which demonstrated a commitment to and engagement with the partnership. Their “hope for the coming year” was that the Partnership would be strengthened and reinvigorated in order that it could “move forward with purpose”.

Just three months later we were told that there was no future for the Partnership and that our Councils could serve us better if they concentrated on what they were supposed to be doing – dealing with problems in their own areas.

Our spin doctor avoided any suggestion that the authorities might have got it wrong. Instead of recommending that the Partnership should be ended, he or she wrote, “It is proposed that the Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic partnership should be further developed into two LSPs – one each for Carlisle and Eden”. Priceless. To bring to an end means to develop further. Not many months ago we were being told that no one fails examinations any more, since “failure” means “deferred success”. Funny world.

Members who attended our A.G.M. will recall Eden District Council’s Community Safety Officer telling us that the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership had real advantages. It avoided duplication of effort, improved the use of resources, allowed for shared expertise and had greater impact. The warning signs were there, of course. The Government Office North West has set significantly different crime reduction targets for Carlisle and Eden for the simple reason that the areas have significantly different problems!

Well, at the risk of sounding pompous, we did point that out when Cumbria Constabulary put Appleby into its North Cumbria Area (as part of a cost-cutting exercise).

Slowly but surely the grandiose plans of the empire builders are beginning to crumble before their eyes – and ours.

### Townscape

When Appleby's representatives met with Cumbria's engineers on 25 May to discuss the final details of the Townscape, they were promised a follow-up meeting in about a fortnight. When almost two months had slipped by both the Town Council and the Society contacted Capita to see what was happening.

As promised in the previous Newsletter, we were committed to argue against the proposed use of sandstone on our footpaths. I am grateful to Andrew Ratcliffe who offered to visit Carlisle, Penrith and Barnard castle and take a number of photographs of pavement materials for comparison. He also wrote a fine letter to *The Herald*, in which he neatly encapsulated the case against sandstone.

Things then moved quite rapidly. Capita arranged a meeting giving us just three days notice. The meeting was scheduled for the day before Andrew's letter would appear in the paper. With his consent, I tabled both his photographs and letter at a meeting on 29 July. The meeting was running smoothly and unanimous agreements were reached on a number of minor detail changes to the scheme – each adjustment moving us nearer to the plan agreed by the Town Council in 2001. Then we came to footpaths! Cllr Morgan claimed that only the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society had proposed the use of york stone and that it was not a generally held view. Cllr Warburton said she, "tended towards sandstone". Cllr S Rooke and I argued the case for york stone. It was agreed to leave the final decision to the Town Council Planning Committee Meeting on the following Monday. Capita was anxious to receive an answer by the next day. (Bit of a cheek as it was Capita who delayed us for two months.)

I was very concerned at the suggestion that only the Society had supported the use of york stone. Fortunately, the Society's file on the Townscape goes back to 1997 and is now getting pretty thick! We do not have to rely on memory when we argue our case. A quick 'ring round' of available Committee members resulted in an agreement to write to each and every Town Councillor to remind them of previous consultation exercises and council decisions. At no time during the previous eight years of 'townscapes' was there a mention of 'Lazonby' sand stone as a preferred option for footpaths.

When Capita presented its ideas to a public meeting as recently as November 2004 it suggested 'split faced york stone flags'. The minutes of that meeting circulated by Cumbria County Council also record that Capita had proposed york stone paving. Both Option 1 and Option 2 of the public consultation exercise in December proposed 'split faced york stone paving'. In early January both the Town Council and the Society commented on Capita's proposals. Capita's reply to the Town Council, which was copied to the Society, continued to suggest york stone.

On 19 January Capita's proposal for 'Lazonby' sand stone was accepted by Cumbria County Councillors. That proposal had not been seen by anyone in Appleby. The Mayor was so concerned that he took the unusual step of calling an open meeting of the Town Council on 28 January. Prior to the meeting, the Council and the Society exchanged notes of their respective concerns. The Town Council was worried about the sudden change to sand stone as this was "more friable and liable to icing due to retained water". No one spoke in favour of sand stone at the meeting, except Jim Smith, Capita's representative. My notes confirm that Cllr Warburton argued against sand stone.

There were eleven Councillors at the Planning meeting on 1 August. Cllr Morgan was in the chair and not required to vote. Councillors voted seven to three in favour of York stone and that decision was conveyed to Cumbria County Council the next day.

We have written to the Town Council with a suggestion that Capita might like to display samples of actual materials to be used for our pavements, kerbs and market area prior to commencement of work. I am pleased to record that the suggestion was followed up and samples will be displayed in the Tourist Information Centre. We have also been advised that work will commence on 31 October. There will be a break between 3 December and 3 January 2006 – to cater for the Christmas shopping and holiday period.

#### Letters to the Editor

Over the years I have written several letters to local newspapers. I am not alone. *The Herald* must have a list of 'usual suspects' who use the letters' page to 'get it off their chest'. Who reads them? That's a question I often ask myself. The good news is that people just might.

Letters criticising Eden District Council for wanting to close public toilets struck home and a group of Councillors challenged the original flawed consultation exercise. Letters re a lack of plastic recycling facilities in Appleby have brought about a change of heart.

Some Eden District Councillors have had a 'eureka' moment and have begun to think that it is they and not Council employees who should be calling the shots and setting the agenda. A few years ago our Member of Parliament reminded us that he could not require Councillors to ensure that their instructions to officers were carried out – only the electorate could do that. Councillors or, more correctly, some Councillors have begun to realise that they should be listening to the electorate more and to the officers less. Perhaps they will be able to put an end to the nonsensical proposals to cut services and charge more whilst the same number of employees do less and less. Perhaps. Keep writing!

#### Stolen Thunder

As I read the front page of *The Herald* on 6 August, which had a piece about English Heritage telling us how lovely Penrith's pavements and kerbs are, I felt another letter coming on. But the paper had beaten me to it. In its leader column, *The Herald* doubted whether many of Penrith's residents would recognise their own town from the English Heritage description.

It crossed my mind that, as someone in English Heritage agreed to spend £270,000 of its money on the Penrith scheme, that 'someone' felt obliged to say something nice about it.

#### Water, Water!

We know that Eden District Councillors have consented to drink filtered tap water at the Committee meetings. We have now seen the report that recommended the change. The report is four pages long. It contains thirty paragraphs and well over a thousand words. What it says is – Bottled water is expensive. Are Councillors prepared to drink tap water and save over £1,000 a year? The question could have been asked without a four page report. Someone at Eden District Council has time to spare or is being paid by the word!

The same person also writes job advertisements. Two job vacancies were advertised side by side in *The Herald* on 13 August. Council tax payers paid for the Eden District Council version. Contrast:-

- A vacancy exists for an experienced electrical craftsman within the engineering team at Shapfell Works. Principal duties involve the electrical maintenance of production plant within the quarry, crushing plant and lime plant.

and

- A challenging opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and organised individual to provide administrative support to the Contact Eden project which looks to introduce a customer contact centre by January 2006 within the Council. The post holder will be required to assist with the engagement in the project and with project working, to attend various working groups involved with the implementation of the project and to work with the project manager providing assistance.

Corus wants an electrician. You would need a degree in gobbledegook to understand what Eden District Council is looking for.

### History Slot

#### **The Alderson Family** (picture enclose separately)

The Alderson family moved to Appleby from Shildon, Co Durham June 1933, when Dad took over as licensee of the Golden Ball, High Wiend. The family consisted of:-

Dad – Henry Calvert Alderson; Mam – Edith Mary Alderson; children – Harriet, Mary, Anne, Joseph, Florence and Joan.

Until the beginning of the War, after leaving school, we girls were employed mostly in domestic work as there was not much else available those days. Joe, however, was apprenticed as a Joiner. Apprenticeships in those days were for 7 years, unheard of today.

#### Dad (pictured centre)

When the War began Dad, who served with The Green Howards during the First World War, was naturally too old for service in the Second War. Nevertheless he volunteered and joined the local Royal Observer Corps and, even after a busy night in the pub, he put on his uniform at 10.00 o'clock and spent one night each week on duty in the R.O.C. look-out post, which was on the hill which is now Margarets Way housing estate.

#### Mam

As it was forbidden to allow evacuees to be placed on licensed premises, Mam was obliged to take in drivers of military convoys for bed and breakfast if they had overnight stops in Appleby. As well as this and looking after quite a large house, she always seemed to find time to knit socks and balaclava helmets for the Red Cross, wool being provided by the Red Cross association whose headquarters were in Clifford Street.

#### Harriet

In 1939 Harriet was married to Waller Morland and had twin children, Michael and Mary. They lived in Kirkby Stephen. Soldiers who were under training in Kirkby Stephen were billeted with them. Mr Morland was eventually directed to work at the Express Dairy, Appleby, driving a milk tanker.

#### Mary (pictured seated right)

To avoid being conscripted to war work, she volunteered and joined the Wrens. Her 'square bashing' training was spent near Loch Lomond, after which she was posted to the other end of the country and spent the rest of her service life as a stewardess at a Royal Naval shore establishment in Southsea. She married Thomas Stirzaker, who she met when he was one of the soldiers billeted with Harriet. They had two children, Bernard and Joan.

Ann (pictured standing right)

Volunteered and joined the WAAF in October 1941. After 'kitting out' at Gloucester, she was on the first WAAF troop train to Morecambe, for 3 weeks 'square bashing' and a series of lectures, inoculations and vaccinations. Her first posting was RAF Leconfield, a pre-war peace-time airfield. The WAAFs were billeted in the Married Quarters, which were much more comfortable than the Nissen huts. After promotion to ACWI, she was posted to Castle Kennedy, near Stranraer, where, for some unknown reason, the locals were decidedly hostile. This was followed by a welcome posting to a new station on Anglesey, which eventually became RAF Mona, an aircrew station. Corporal stripes and a posting to Cark followed a three year stay at Mona. Her next posting was to Swanton Morley. She was promoted to Sergeant and her final posting was H G Flying Training Command at Reading. She was demobbed at Kirkham in August 1947. During her service she met and married Alan Clark, RAF pilot. They had one son, Nigel.

Joe (pictured standing left)

Because of a work-related injury to his hand, he failed the medical for the forces so he joined what was then the National Fire Service and served with them all through the years, until the age limit forced him to retire. During his service he won promotion and retired with the rank of Chief Fire Officer. He met and married his wife Joyce, who was a Land Army girl from Liverpool and was stationed in the Land Army hostel in Temple Sowerby. From there they were sent to work on local farms. They had 4 daughters, Doris, Sheila, Gill and Carol. Joe was, for many years, the drummer in Appleby Town Band, as well as the drummer in a local trio named "The Harmony Boys", playing for local dances in Appleby and outside local areas.

Florence (pictured seated left)

Volunteered for the WAAF and joined 10 September 1942. After the initial 'square bashing' training, lectures, inoculations and vaccinations during a 3 week stay in Morecambe, she was posted to Longbenton, Newcastle for intensive training in maintenance and handling of barrage balloons. This was quite hard work, especially when you are only 5' 2"! After this training, she served on various balloon sites in Newcastle, Gateshead and South Shields. When, eventually, the war was more concentrated on the south coast and across the Channel the sites were manned by RAF personnel. She re-mustered to Clerk/GD and was posted to RAF Crosby-on-Eden and demobbed on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1946. Back in civvy street, she was employed in the Food Office situated in the Shire Hall. She married Laurence Horn in 1945 and they took over as licensees of the Golden Ball when Mam died in 1959 until 1969.

Laurence Horn served with the RAF in North Africa and Italy.

Joan

Our younger sister was unable through ill health to join any services. When she became old enough she helped Mam with household duties and was also a prolific knitter for the Red Cross. In addition, she was one of the volunteers who went house to house collecting waste paper. She married Denis Sheridan and they had two children, Edith and Neil. They still live in Chapel Street.

**Committee Meeting 9 August**

Your Committee welcomed Davina Osman, who has kindly agreed to join us. Davina has done a lot of work in connection with our oral history project.

We agreed to write 'thank you' letters to Revd Canon Dr Peter Norton, to David Thomas and to Patricia Clough.

Ian Campbell will continue to head the Society's Shire Hall sub-committee.

We would like to be in a position whereby every Committee member has a special responsibility and we will work towards this.

We also welcomed Cllr Stan Rooke who, with the Mayor's approval, had kindly brought along Appleby's only copy of the latest Townscape proposals and to talk us through them. By and large the plan is probably as close as we will get to the '2001' scheme.

#### Outside Visits

Several suggestions were put forward, including a trip to Sedbergh (all day), evening visit to Kirkoswald College, evening visit to Bewley Castle; evening visit to Haweswater Dam.

#### Coronation Park

We regretted that letters and telephone calls to Eden District Council over a long period had resulted in almost no improvement despite promises. It is not that District Council officers are unaware of the problems. Cllr Langan arranged for Mr Emmerson of EDC to visit the area on 6 October 2004 so that he could see what was required for himself. Railings which were in need of minor repair back then are now in a dangerous condition. A letter dated 26 July, accompanied by photographs showing the state of the railings adjacent to the children's play area, had not even been acknowledged when your Committee met. Prior to that letter, Eden District Council was alerted to the situation by a number of residents, some of whom are members of the Society. The Town Council was told. Cllr S Rooke raised the matter at a meeting of the Town Council's Planning Committee on 1 August. He received an assurance that Cllr Morgan had been in touch with E.D.C. and that matters were in hand. Fortunately Councillors agreed that the Town Clerk should also write and this, we understand, happened.

Your Committee agreed that Graham would telephone Eden District Council in order to underline the seriousness of the situation.

Chairman's Note: When I telephoned Eden District Council I could not find anyone who was even aware of the problem. On 18 August I received a call from Mr Emmerson telling me that temporary repairs had been effected that day. Sadly that wasn't true. But, a short length of garden railing and some pink plastic tape arrived the following day and the chunks of broken concrete were removed. On 24 August a Mr Rowbotham, Assistant Client Officer, Eden District Council wrote to thank me for my "continued interest in the welfare of others". He told me that he had visited the site with the Council's contractor and "asked that the necessary work be done as soon as possible". He ended by writing, "I do hope that the above remedy is satisfactory."

Mr Rowbotham may well hope that the contractor (Task Force Eden) will do as he asked. Bitter experience suggests that he might be disappointed.

As to the trees – apart from one tree which was removed a few months ago, there has been no work on the others that are scheduled for removal.

#### Public Toilets

We understand that Eden District Council's Scrutiny Committee will consider the future of public toilets in September. Scrutiny Committee papers are not made available to the general public but an advance copy will be supplied to the Town Council. As the Town Council does not meet until 14

September, we agreed to ask for the Mayor to call a meeting of the working party, on which we are represented, as soon as he receives the report from Eden District Council. (The Mayor has since agreed to do this.)

Chairman's Note: The Working Party will meet on 12 September.

### Townscape

Appleby's 'task force' met with representatives of Cumbria County Council on 29 July. There were a few outstanding issues to resolve. These were referred to in the previous Newsletter. We now know that the 20 m.p.h. scheme will commence at the Bridge Street/Sands junction and will end just beyond 'Top Cross'. The Bridge Street crossing point will be outside 'Pause for Thought'. The 'service road' between the Moot Hall and the Tufton Arms will be 'one way' but the engineers hope to configure it in such a way as to render no requirement for a plethora of signs. There will be no bollards, benches or bins. There will be no coloured bits of tarmac. There will be no numbers painted on the road surface. Cumbria County Council will place the statutory notices to give effect to the road traffic regulations required in connection with the scheme – including revised parking times.

The matter of pavement finishes is agreed – please see 'From the Chairman'.

### Shire Hall

On May 12 the Society informed the Town Council that, in the absence of any other organisation seeking to save the Shire Hall, we would do what we could before it was too late. We understand that the Town Council has since asked Appleby Alliance to do much the same thing. Our 'understanding' is not based on anything said to us by the Town Council but from telephone calls from Appleby Alliance inviting us to attend a meeting it is seeking to arrange. Your Committee agreed that Ian Campbell will represent us at any such meeting.

Chairman's Note: Ian Campbell represented the Society at a meeting on 16 August. The meeting was organised by Appleby Alliance on behalf of the Town Council. All three local authorities sent representatives. Cumbria County Council is anxious to dispose of the building in the near future. Neither the Alliance nor the Town Council has identified a community use for the building. It seems that the best we can hope for is a sympathetic conversion into something that will satisfy a public need (e.g. low cost housing). There will be a further meeting on 7 September. The outcome of that meeting will be discussed by the Town Council on 14 September.

### Oral History

Nothing to report.

### Membership/Treasurer

Bank statement received – balance £4010.51. Membership renewals steady, with no resignations.

### Appleby Smarter

There have been no meetings of this group. Vivienne, Barbara Wilson, John Wilson and Graham met on 20 July to consider ways in which the Society could co-ordinate a town 'litter pick'. Barbara outlined the action she had taken which had resulted in promises of assistance from several groups in Appleby and from Eden District Council. Michael Graham, the man responsible for keeping Appleby's streets clean will, with permission of his boss, talk to the Primary School children and encourage their co-operation. The Society will provide funding for a poster competition at the school.. Guides and Brownies will participate and their contribution will go towards merit badges. We were much encouraged by the obvious enthusiasm shown by so many.

We settled on Sunday 25 September as 'ALP' day (Appleby Litter Pick). The event will be advertised in the press and locally by way of posters. We agreed that the event would run throughout the previous week, rather than be limited to just one day.

What do I need to do? Members are encouraged to do their bit and to alert friends and families to what we are seeking to achieve. Black bin bags will be available at the Tourist Information Centre during the week commencing 17 September. These can be used to collect rubbish. **PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THEM TO THE T.I.C. Take them to the Guide Hut in Holme Street, which will be open on Sunday 25 September.** Arrangements have been made with Eden District Council for these bags of rubbish to be taken away on Monday 26 September. It is hoped that refreshments will be available for thirsty workers and everyone who participates will receive a 'thank you' certificate. Volunteers will not be 'organised'. We reckon that residents will be aware of the areas that need tidying up without being pointed in any particular direction. Please participate – not necessarily on the 25<sup>th</sup> but at any time during the previous week. It goes without saying that you can use stocks of black bags which most of us have festering in the garage. Let's see if the Society can make a difference.

We were also pleased to learn that the newly-formed Appleby Business and Community Association is seeking to utilise the services of persons on community service orders to do some weeding and painting where required. Members with suggestions for areas requiring attention by this group are requested to contact Patti Hogg at 'Occasions', Bridge Street or on (017683) 52646.

#### Appleby New Fair

As indicated in the previous Newsletter, we wrote to Appleby Town Council, Eden District Council, Cumbria Constabulary and Appleby's County Councillor seeking details of additional costs resulting from the Fair. The letters were sent 23 June.

By the time we met on 9 August we had heard from all except our County Councillor. We agreed to write again, directly to the Chief Executive this time, invoking the Freedom of Information Act.

Eden District Council spent an extra £47,000. Cumbria Constabulary spent an extra £114,000. Appleby Town Council spent only the £1,000 it received as a gift from grateful users of Fair Hill. Eden District Council did not include the money previously allocated to Task Force Eden under its annual contract and Cumbria Constabulary did not include the cost of providing the regular Appleby contingent.

Eden District Council insisted that there was no change to the contract with Task Force Eden this year and that TFE was required to keep the roads, footpaths and toilets clean and to remove rubbish as usual.

Metcalf's, the company which supplies the road cleaning machines, has previously told us that no one ordered them this year and our Town Council was told that this was because the person who should have done so was unavailable and the replacement person 'did not know the ropes'. Eden District Council told us that it is aware of the problems, due to the number of complaints it received. That's all right then. Back to sleep until next year.

Appleby Town Council seems to be somewhat muddled. Despite Councillors having "clarified" the difference between Appleby New Fair Joint Committee and Appleby Fair Joint Committee we continue to receive letters that suggest it might not be altogether clear to the Town Clerk. The Town Council does not charge a rent for Fair Hill and there is no rental agreement. The Town Clerk insists that the travellers have a right by ancient charter to use Fair Hill and that they donate £1,000 to the Council's coffers, which goes towards providing portaloos, etc. To date, the Town

Clerk has been unable to tell us what charter is being relied on or why, if travellers have a right to Fair Hill, how the Council managed to keep it enclosed between 1913 and 1966, only reopening it when the Medical Officer of Health insisted.

We understand that Appleby New Fair Company is being wound up. This was the organisation which consultants suggested should convert itself into a charity. Since Eden District Council was looking to Appleby New Fair Company to submit a planning application for the proposed ramp and to take out insurance cover to indemnify the District Council from any claims resulting from its use, it will be interesting to watch developments.

#### Heritage Weekend 10/11 September

Each year English Heritage produces a booklet explaining which buildings are open and in which towns. The information is provided by Town Councils, responsible for organising the events locally. Appleby is not included in this year's booklet. We agreed we could, if requested, mount the usual exhibition in the Shire Hall and conduct guided tours of the complex. For a variety of reasons it would appear that a number of initiatives, such as a town pageant and, perhaps, a theatrical performance in the Shire Hall, will not now take place.

Your Committee noted that if we do 'man' the Shire Hall, it will mean, once again, that we have to contact members at the last moment. We agree that this is unsatisfactory but circumstances are, as they say, beyond our control.

#### Programme 2005/6

Although not at the printing stage yet, arrangements have been made for the following speakers for the 2005/6 programme:- Andrew Ratcliffe; Elizabeth Thoele, Superintendent Registrar; David Smaile; Mary Gould, a lecturer at Lancaster University, speaking on Fairs in the North West of England. The November meeting will be the 'Christmas' event.

#### From the Secretary

Apologies for the non-appearance so far of Membership/Programme 2005 - 2006 cards. Details are still being finalised and they will be issued as soon as possible.

#### Next Meeting

**Thursday 29 September 2005  
7.30 p.m. Supper Room, Market Hall**

**Mr David Smaile - "The Manor Customs of Westmorland"**

**David makes a welcome return visit and this time will reveal what happened at a Manorial Court. Some audience participation will be involved as he demonstrates, as well as explains, The Manor Customs of Westmorland. Reports of similar evenings have indicated a very entertaining and enjoyable experience.**

#### Please Note

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; from our Secretary – tel: 017683 51597; from our Chairman – tel: 017683 53063.

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