Town Meeting of Appleby

The Town Meeting of Appleby was held on Wednesday 30th April 2025.

This document includes all the reports received from local groups and organisations, including some that were not able to attend.

If you are interested in joining any of the below organisations, but do not have any contact details, please email admin@applebytown.gov.uk.

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Appleby Town Council Update

The Council took on the role as accountable body for the refurbishment of the George V Playground. The group raised £105,000, with grants from 12 different funders totalling £85,000 and nearly £20,000 from local fundraising and donations. The playground opened in May last year and is a big hit with both local and visiting children. I'd like to mention Kelly Cannon and Sally Ballantyne, who were the residents who started the campaign to improve the playground and the driving force behind the community fundraising, without which, it wouldn't have been started.

The Public Hall has had a very busy year. As well as all of our regular users, we have seen a rise in the number of bookings for private events. A highlight being to host BBC Radio 4's Any Questions in March, which was a great night, with around 200 people watching how the show goes out live. We also have some other interesting bookings in the pipeline, including a Vintage Antique Roadshow on 21st May.

Appleby Council is quite unusual for a Parish Council in that it owns and maintains a substantial property portfolio, including the Moot Hall, Public Hall and The Cloisters, as well as 6 retail units. Although the buildings are an asset to both the Council and town, they obviously require maintaining.

We've carried out a number of repairs to the Public Hall over the past couple of years, including replacing part of the roof to make it watertight and a number of electrical improvements, including upgrading lots of the lighting to LED, a new portable speaker system and foldable tables. Our plans for the coming year include internal improvements to the hall - decorating and putting in new flooring and also upgrading some of the electrics. We will be asking our hall users for their suggestions and if anyone at tonight's meeting has any ideas, please put them on the feedback forms provided at the back of the room.

We are excited that the Council Chamber in the Moot Hall has just been approved as an official venue to carry out Marriage Ceremonies.

After many years of neglect, the black and white bollards around the town were in a very bad state of repair, with many of them being broken and on the ground. Westmorland & Furness Council inherited them from EDC and had no money in their budget to repair them, so Appleby Council took the decision to try and sort them out. After looking at various options, it was agreed to replace the wooden bollards with bespoke concrete ones. This was kick-started by a very generous anonymous donation of £20,000 from a local organisation, with additional funding coming from W&F and Appleby Council. We have now replaced all of the bollards on Boroughgate, both sides of the

river and the war memorial (totalling 300) and just have Scattergate ones to do (100). These will be done over the next few months.

Similarly, the two Butts Shelters on the river were also in a very bad state of repair and W&F Council had no budget to repair them. Again, thanks to a very generous donation of £4,500 from Appleby Rotary and money from W&F and Appleby Council, these have been refurbished to a high standard.

A very big thank you to our team of local contractors, led by Nigel Altham, who have all done an amazing job on all the work carried out this year.

Despite all the additional projects carried out, which were not in the Council's original plans, we are happy to report that there was no increase in the Parish Council Tax for Appleby residents this year.

The long awaited flood defence improvement scheme eventually got started. This has resulted in significant disruption to the Chapel Street part of town, with the loss of Broad Close car park and ongoing road closures, temporary traffic lights and loss of some onstreet parking at times. The temporary car park at Edenside has helped alleviate the parking issues. The current update is that works programme is on schedule, if not a bit ahead and they are hoping to have all the work done that requires the traffic management measures, to be finished in September.

It goes without saying that a huge amount of all staff members' time is taken up with responding, resolving, reporting or facilitating the vast range of enquiries received from residents, businesses and other stakeholder groups and organisations. Many of the enquiries are not the direct responsibility of Appleby Council, in particular highway issues, but all staff members are very happy to accommodate these requests and help resolve these issues when we can.

The Council has two small grant funds and has given out £6,500 to 6 local organisations in the last 12 months.

Sue Gilbertson
Town Clerk

Tourism Update

We had a successful 2024 season for town events. The Craft ladies trail resulted in an increase of 40% in visitor numbers into the TIC July and August (900 + trail sheets handed out).

Heritage open weekend in September also saw a 25% rise in visitors

Also, a success in September was the return to Hogwarts day (organised by The Settle to Carlisle railway and Cupboard under the stairs).

We introduced a new town QR trail, and new historical information boards and finger posts have been installed around the town.

Among improvements to our Visit Appleby Website are a new Accessibility page for those with disabilities

New Marketing initiatives last year included an influencer visit to town (Poppy in the Peaks, funded by Cumbria Tourism) and a Visit Appleby advert with QR code in the Settle to Carlisle railway guide.

It has been a good (and sunny) Easter for tourism in the Eden Valley. We have had more international visitors back in town.

The Stainmore railway exhibition in the TIC Exhibition room has been very popular.

The April town shop local loyalty card has been very well received (this is due to be drawn very soon, we have had 80 entries so far.)

New for this year's town marketing will be an advert in the Perfect Days Out in Eden leaflet which has a 70,000 print run and features in all the Northern Print Distribution leaflet stands in Cumbria and surrounding counties.

We have a new long distance walking trail due to be launched this year called the North Pennines Roof of England Walk. It is 188 miles long and starts and ends in Appleby! Work has been ongoing in improving some of the paths which will be used around Appleby (including new steps in the woods on the way to Ormside.)

We have just this week redesigned the TIC entrance for wheelchair users to make it safer for everybody.

The TIC social media pages continue to go from strength to strength and are a good way to work with other local businesses to promote the town and area.

Nicola Elliot
Appleby Tourist Information Centre

Appleby Town Band

Appleby-in-Westmorland Town Band has been part of the life of this town for over 120 years. In our archives is a photo of 15 Band members in 1906, complete with their instruments and bowler hats!

The Band is still active in and around Appleby throughout the year. In the 12 months since 30th April 2024, there have been 25 engagements, seven of which were in Appleby (including Mayor's Sunday, a visit to Appleby Primary School, the Remembrance Sunday procession, and the annual Hospice at Home Concert, as well as Christmas engagements like Sparkle Day); eight were at events in villages around Appleby, like fetes and Farmers' Markets, and five were fund-raising events for Band funds outside supermarkets in Penrith and at Westmorland Services. There was also a Massed Band event, involving bands from all over Cumbria, at Lowther Castle in July; and Band members also played for the Easter Sunrise Service ten days ago at 6 a.m. on Orton Scar. Already the Band has 7 further engagements in the diary for the rest of 2025.

There are now 20 members of the band, and though unlike in past years we have no children playing in the Band, the ages of members range from 28 to 88. The longest-serving members have played with the Band for over 40 years, and others have joined in the last few months.

We acquired a new conductor in February 2024, Gavin Brown, who is himself a member of a championship band in Middlesbrough – he took over in Appleby after our previous conductor moved away from the district. While we value very highly Gavin's expertise and musicianship, our commitment to cover his travel expenses each week for the 120 mile round trip has had financial implications for the Band.

In addition while in previous years the Band rehearsed in the little room upstairs behind the stage of the Public Hall, for which we had to pay no charge, but since Covid and as the Band has grown in membership we have been rehearsing in this Supper Room for which we are charged £15 per session. As a result of this, we have not only had to undertake five fund-raising sessions as mentioned, but for the first time all band members now pay a monthly charge of £10 for their membership. Expenses apart from those mentioned include insurance, repairs to instruments, purchase of music, and band uniforms.

The Band Constitution states that the Committee should include two members appointed by the Town Council. However, though the Agenda and Minutes of the Committee Meeting are always emailed to the Town Clerk, no such Council representatives have taken part in Committee meetings for some

years, which is perhaps a pity. But Band members are all happy to continue making what we believe is a valuable contribution to the life of our town and district community.

Christopher Jenkin

Fellside Singers

It is a gratifying to be able to reflect that since the pandemic the singers have continued to perform with enthusiasm and have gained confidence and stamina, to the point where half of the programme performed at the recent Christmas concert was done unaccompanied.

The foremost aim of the group is to be a community choir, and this has been evident in the concerts we have performed in 2024 and so far this year; Madrigals in March with the Lady Anne Clifford costume event in St Lawrence's; the Spring concert "All in an April's Evening" where we collaborated with Barbara Wright, and with Sophie, a Grade 6 (now Grade 7) violin student; and again with Sophie in our 'All You Need is Love' concert in Dufton in June.

The group participated in "A Concert of Friendship" with the South Lakes Acapella Group in February at St Lawrence's, and had a very successful shared concert with Appleby Band earlier this month. We conclude this season's activities with a shared concert at Culgaith with the local Pop Choir. We welcome both experienced and inexperienced choral singers and anyone interested can make contact with me via the TIC.

2025 is the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Fellside Singers. Plans to celebrate 25 years, performing Vivaldi's Gloria, had to be halted because of the pandemic, so we are looking on ways to celebrate this new anniversary and hope that we might be able to collaborate with other groups.

Richard McGregor

Appleby Archaeology

Last year was a very successful one for the Appleby Archaeology Group with increased membership and attendance at meetings.

Our summer visits included one to Birdoswald Roman fort, the archaeological excavations at Carlisle, and a guided tour of Acorn Bank Mill.

Our lectures this season have been wide and varied, and included sessions on monumental burials at Ponteland, the Gamelands stone circle, excavations at Lowther, Cockermouth, Lindisfarne, and aerial archaeology. Next year's programme of talks is now organised, and a series of summer site visits is currently being planned including to Gueswick near Barnard Castle and Mayburgh Henge at Eamont Bridge.

All our lectures and visits have been reported in the local newspaper thanks to committee member Adrian Waite, and also through our regular Newsletters. All our publications and research are available to view and download from our website, apparch.org.

We have been raising money to undertake excavations at Castrigg, (a possible fortlet or settlement on the Roman road), which will take place in early October. We are grateful to the Town Council, Age Concern, British Gypsum, Appleby Rotary and the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society who have all contributed to the funding for this excavation.

The group is planning a much larger project which will be informed by the results of our upcoming excavation. This project is tentatively called Appleby: Digging Further Out, with a subtitle: Settlement and Communication. This is still in the planning stage, but anyone interested is welcome to join the planning group, which will be taking forward the detailed design and grant funding applications. Please contact me vis the TIC.

The first public event towards this project will be an archaeology exploration and outreach day to be held in the Bennett Room of Appleby Hub on the afternoon of Friday June 27th. We will be showcasing archaeological techniques and inviting local residents to explore archaeological skills and investigation.

Richard McGregor

Appleby and District Branch Royal British Legion

The branch was formed on the 27th of June 1921 and has been in continuous service to the ex-forces community for over 100 years.

The branch has struggled in recent years to recruit a committee. However recently the numbers have increased, and we are able to become more involved in local activities unfortunately the previous chairman Paul Nesbitt passed away and was not only a loss for branch but of many organisations in the town. I would like to thank Stan Rooke for his support during his time president I would like to welcome and congratulate Gareth Hayes on his appointment as president.

To reach out to the local veteran community it was decided that a separate breakfast club would be formed with my thanks going to Ben MacDonald who has been instrumental in setting this up in conjunction with the Hub, which means we can not only support local ex forces but support a local charity.

We are working with the Methodists church for an afternoon tea to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day and hope to unveil a new memorial at the swimming pool for VJ Day. Our thanks to the crafty ladies for making 80 poppies which we have put out on Boroughgate on the 80 Days leading up to VE Day.

We continue to support the town council with arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and we are working with the town band to put on a festival of remembrance on the 18th of October. With Chairman Simon being in his 21st Year as Branch Standard Bearer.

We will be re affiliating the Branch with the local ATC Squadron, and hope to be able to support them.

We also recently supported an ex-serviceman, a local lad, who was homeless. Various members of the committee used local contacts with the council for housing and local employers, which enabled to get him back to his hometown within a week and found him employment. Our thanks to the Crown & Cushion and Battlebarrow B&B for giving us reduced rates on accommodation. We are also in the process of being trained for branch community support which will enable us do use local funds to support local ex forces quickly when needed.

Simon Walton

Age Concern Appleby and District

The Volunteers of Age Concern Appleby & District Charity Shop have enjoyed another very successful year of fundraising for our community.

As you know our Charity is totally independent and focusses entirely on giving donations to local clubs, organisations and events which provide for the older people of the CA16 district.

Our Charity has donated £54,000 in the last financial year to many local causes and larger charities which serve our area. GNAAS, Hospice at Home, Macmillan Cancer Support, BEEP Doctors, Eden Carer Support, Eden Valley Hospice and Blood Bikes have all benefitted from money raised. We were also again the main benefactors of Penrith Hospital League of Friends. Locally we have supported Appleby Smarter, Appleby Archaeology, Evergreen Club, First Responders and Appleby Memory Club. We also support Heart of Eden Newsletter, Exercise Classes for Older People, Appleby Crafty Women's Group and a donation was made to Long Marton Village Institute to enable a lift to be installed for use by older and disabled people.

The Charity has also provided three benches for the children's playground and the bench on Low Wiend, originally donated by Age Concern has had a much-needed facelift made possible by joint financing with the Town Council.

We continue to support Appleby Medical Practice. They have received funding for two essential pieces of equipment which formerly had to be shared between several practices. We have also been donating excess clothes and other goods to the people of Ukraine for the past year and will continue to do so as long as there is a need.

In 2024, we provided Afternoon Tea for residents aged 80 and over in the CA16 postcode in July and December. They proved to be very popular events and much appreciated by the guests who enjoyed the good food and company. A big thank you to Appleby Tourist Information for being the centre for ticket distribution; we are very grateful for their continuing support of these events.

Our AGM will be held at the Cricket Club on Thursday 15 May 2025 at 2 pm and all are welcome. After the AGM we will have a vacancy for a Trustee due to the retirement of our long-serving and much-loved Vice Chairman, Dave Sampson. Anyone who is interested in joining us and feel they have the skills to move our charity forward, please contact the Secretary, Elaine Barraclough at embarra60@gmail.com or 017683 51250.

June Codd

Appleby Football & Squash Club

Participation at the Club is thriving. As we reported last year, membership has been growing over the past few years largely thanks to the success of the Junior football section. We currently have roughly 200 members: 120 junior footballers, 40 senior footballers and 40 squash players.

As we reported last year, the Club was looking to undertake a significant refurbishment of its 40 year old Clubhouse. This refurbishment will provide us with a facility that we can use to generate additional revenue from both sporting and non-sporting activities to contribute to the ever increasing costs of running the Club.

During the year, we have secured a number of sources of funding and have completed phase 1 of the project; the replacement of the roof. Phase 2 is due to start in May and will primarily consist of:

- Internal work on the kitchen, club room and installing additional toilets.
- Replacement of external windows and doors.

The improved facilities will enable us to provide food and drink to supporters and teams before, during and after matches/training. They will also allow us to host club fundraising events, which would be open to the wider community.

We are also hoping that the significantly enhanced facilities will enable us to become an asset to the local Community. We will engage with the community and offer the facilities for outside events.

Senior Football

We have a First team and a Reserves team who play in the Westmorland Football League.

The First team are currently top of the First Division of the League with three games left to play. They are also in the Finals of the Westmorland FA Benevolent Trophy and the High Sheriff's Cup, which are being played at Kendal and Penrith on 2 May and 8 May, respectively.

The Reserves are currently third in Division 3 of the League, with three games left to play and have a chance of immediate promotion back to Division 2. The Reserves are also in the Final of the Peter Daws Memorial Shield being played at Penrith on 1 May.

Junior Football

We have had the following mixed Junior teams playing in the Penrith and District Junior Leagues this year: U9, two U10 teams, U11, U12, U13/U14, U15 and U16. We also have a U7/U8 team that plays non-competitive football.

All teams have performed well in their respective leagues and the U10 Wildcats & U9 Tigers reached the Ali Stewart Europa League Final.

The Junior section has received two awards this season; one each from the two County FAs in Cumbria:

- Westmorland FA runner up Club of the Year
- Cumberland FA Positive Football Award

We continue to see our junior section grow & this is due to the family of volunteers we have in the Club, especially our coaches.

We are looking forward to next season & having a refurbished clubhouse to continue welcoming our Junior players & supporters.

Squash

The Club had 2 teams competing in the Cumbria Squash League this season.

The A Team competed in a very strong Premier league in which we struggled this year due to player availability and injury. However, we did finish 2nd bottom which overall isn't a bad season due to the strength of the league.

The B Team played in Division One and finished mid table and runners up in the League Cup losing 4-0 to Wigton, who also won the league.

At the start of the season, our courts were professionally refurbished to a high standard, and there has been lots of positive feedback from all visiting teams who have had the pleasure of playing on them.

We're always looking to welcome new members at any time.

Martin Smith

Appleby Hub / Oaklea

Thank you everyone who has continued to support the Hub despite being surrounded by literal barriers!

We now have 21 paid employees at the Hub across six days. We also have 7 volunteers, who have really helped us out with our shop, odd jobs and support for learners as well as in some cases, combating their own social isolation.

We have 9 ‘learners’ adults with learning disabilities and autism helping with our café both on prep days and café service days. They are all in the process of completing our in house awards which are training them to have valuable work skills. Also, nearly all of them now have a food hygiene certificate level 2.

Our Rotary bookshop continues to go from strength to strength and although the second hand donated book are just a pound or two our shop is laid out beautifully by volunteers Barry Mackay (Appleby Rotary) and Sue Hutt. The proceeds from this benefit not just our charity but many other local charities too.

Mike Hutt and friends now run a once a month men’s book club in the Hub café which has been a huge success and well attended. It was discussed that men often find it hard to join groups to chat and share their feelings, but the book club has become a great way to get together and talk about anything not just the book of the month.

We are pleased to now host the veteran’s breakfast every month at the Hub.

We are about to start some free of charge life saver sessions at the hub partnering with Appleby first responders anyone is welcome. The first responders’ team are hoping that it will give everyone the confidence to use a defibrillator, these are kindly donated around the town by the first responders.

At the Hub we have the motto that everyone is welcome without judgement or prejudice so please visit whenever you like…

Sarah Jones

Appleby Edibles

We are a small, constituted community group based at the Appleby Heritage Centre site in Appleby-in-Westmorland. We currently have 22 members renting a garden space (bed) at a cost of £10.00 per plot, per annum. Individual beds are available both inside and outside our large polytunnel. Members can share expertise, develop their skills and grow delicious edible plants. Although we welcome members of all ages, the vast majority of our current members are either retired or approaching retirement.

On Tuesday and Saturday mornings between 10am and 12 noon, we welcome visitors to the site. Any members who are willing and able to attend these sessions work together on maintaining and improving the grounds.

We have an AGM in April each year when we vote in Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, and three other committee members. We also hold regular members' meetings, which all members are encouraged to attend.

We have a large polytunnel (75 feet long), which was originally used to house the refurbishment of a steam engine. Following storms in 2022, the existing cover was beyond repair and we were left with just the frame. Since then, we have completed an extensive repair and renovation project. The polytunnel has now been completely recovered and we have installed sliding doors and windows at each end. We have also improved ventilation by installing roll up side curtain vents on each side of the polytunnel.

Our members have completed all this work using the funding we have received so far (please see details of funding already received below).

In addition, we have:

- Put in wheelchair accessible pathways
- Built one large wheelchair-accessible raised bed
- Re-built and extended compost areas for members and community use
- Assembled and repurposed a metal shed to provide a dry, clean meeting area/secure storage area
- Established an apple tree cordon with some heritage varieties, root stock and propagated plants.
- Repaired our greenhouse and we purchased film to put over the windows as an added health and safety measure.
- Re-purposed a tool storage cabin, previously used to teach plastering in, which is now being used as store room for tools, equipment and materials.
- Cultivated a large outdoor raised bed to provide a communal herb garden for Members to pick and use as they wish.

As a result of all this work, the site has become a pleasant place which encourages wellbeing & healthy lifestyles and the sharing of horticultural knowledge and experience.

- On 6/1/21 we received a grant of £2000 from theTransition Town Initiative.
- On 12/5/21, we received a grant of £3500 from the Freda Scott Foundation.
- On 4/2/22, we received a grant of £1613.41 (75%) from Eden District Council's Eden Community Fund.
- On 1/7/24, we received a grant of £537.80 (25%) from Eden District Council's Eden Community Fund.
- On 4/2/25 we received a grant of £100.00 from the Cumberland Building Society
- On 11/3/25 we received a grant from Age Concern

Total funding received to date £8751.21

We now have space to build more raised beds inside the polytunnel for next spring. The recent additional funding that we have received will enable us to purchase materials to build the beds and soil and compost to fill them. This will enable us to attract new members.

We also want to collect and store rainwater and install solar powered automatic rainwater pumping.

Julie Johnstone

Appleby Community Acting Together

ACAT have been responsible for the Christmas tree, lights and Sparkle Day for quite some time now. We have wrapped hundreds of presents over the years for Santa to give to the children. We are all volunteers and are very lucky to have so many who help with the putting up and the taking down of the tree and lights. Also, the many people who donate money and those that support our fund raising events. We always need more young people as a lot of us are not getting any younger.

Dot Anderton

Appleby Emergency Response Group

As of 31st December 2024, we had a total of 64 registered volunteers (including committee members).

No significant flooding was experienced in 2024. Between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024, the Environment Agency issued 10 Flood Alerts (an increase of 2 from 2023) and 3 Flood Warnings. (an increase of 3 from 2023).

Appleby Emergency Support Network: There are 69 registered participants signed up for this service which ensures that participants receive SMS messages in the event of a flood alert or flood warning keeping them up to date with the latest information received from the Environment Agency. We also have 2,800 Facebook followers.

We are currently funded through a grant of £12,500 received from CCF, primarily to fund a part time project coordinator, and also to assist with ongoing annual operational costs.

During the last 12 months we have:

- Invested in additional PPE and technology
- Reviewed our policies, procedures and other governance documents
- Reviewed and updated our community emergency plan
- Reviewed and updated our website
- Completed an audit of our equipment and resources

This work ensures that we are resilient and prepared should an emergency incident occur in the town and that we are able to provide a response which meets community needs.

Julie Johnstone

Appleby Bowling Club

Appleby Bowling Club are looking for new members. The Club has superb green and clubhouse facilities. The Outdoor Season starts in mid-April and continues to mid-September. The Winter Indoor season starts in mid-September and continues to the following April.

Regular free taster Sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from the beginning of May until the end of August from 6.30pm until 8.30pm for you to try the sport. Any flat soled shoes you have will suffice, and bowls will be provided by the Club.

Friendly games take place on most afternoons during the summer (outdoors) and the winter (indoors) starting at 2pm. There are numerous internal Club Competitions throughout the year. During the summer on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings we compete in local leagues for those of you with a competitive flair. Friendly matches take place against other clubs in the Eden Valley area during the Winter Indoor season.

Presently the Annual Membership fee is £65.00 for adults, which covers both the Outdoor and Indoor Seasons.

Contact details:

Peter Metcalfe, Hon. Secretary,

Appleby Bowling Club, The Sands, Appleby-in-Westmorland CA16 6XN,

01768 352306 and email: metcalfe6xy@btinternet.com

Appleby Rotary Club

Appleby Rotary Club is a member of Rotary International, a global organisation whose motto is “Service Above Self”. Rotary works at all levels to support and improve the lives of others. Being part of the local community is important to the Club and its members.

During the past year we have worked alongside the Council and other groups in both financial and non-monetary activities for the good of local residents. In the financial sense, we have given £5000 to Appleby Grammer School to assist in the purchase of a School and Community Minibus and £4500 towards the repair and refurbishment of the riverside shelters. We financed two AGS students to attend a confidence building adventure with Ocean Youth Trust. Smaller funding has helped local groups e.g. Appleby ATC, the Food Bank, Appleby (and other) local primary schools, and AGS where we run several youth programmes, such as Young Artist, Writer, Photographer, and Chef.

In the non-monetary sense, we have been the main source of volunteers to put up the town’s Christmas lights; many local organisations come to us for volunteers to act as marshals for events (e.g. Appleby Show and Remembrance Day).

Many residents enjoy and benefit from diverse Rotary organised events such as a Simon and Garfunkel tribute band concert, a Fun Run, a Golf Competition, coffee mornings, quiz nights, and a Murder Mystery Evening. Rotary organise and run one of the main car parks for the Horse Fair (which is also one of our major fund-raising activities and enables us to support a number of local groups). On a wider view, we contribute to many organisations important to local people: the Great North Air Ambulance, Blood Bikes, Beep Doctors, and the Eden Talking Newspaper service. In a less tangible sense, Rotary are in touch with other clubs around the world. We have links with Rotary in areas of need and can react to their perceived requirements, collecting such as warm clothing and toiletries for transport to Ukraine, and enabling local people to contribute in a practical, meaningful way.

Alan Green

Responsible Dog Ownership Working Party

Just over a year ago, I obtained approval from the Town Council to set up a joint Council and Community led Working Party in response to concerns raised about dog fouling and dogs not under control in public spaces. Following a public meeting last April, a Working Party of 6 was formed, comprising 3 councillors and 3 members of the community. We set about exploring the extent of dog fouling and discussing ways in which we could turn the tide and encourage people to pick up after their dogs and then dispose of the bag responsibly.

Our mantra is - 'Keep Appleby clean, safe and tidy for everyone to enjoy' with the tag line '#leaveonlypawprints#

Thankfully, most dog owners do the right thing and pick up after their dogs. We are hopeful that, in time, we can persuade those who don't currently do so to behave in a more socially responsible way. Last August, we held an Appleby Clean-Up Day which was very well received and successful. We had great support with sponsorship from local businesses and the community as a whole. Voluntary groups Appleby Wombles and Appleby Smarter, and the Appleby Squash and Football Club, and some of your town councillors, all took part. Local businesses also provided their services or donated goods. Not forgetting, of course, the support we received from Appleby Town Council, Westmorland and Furness Council and the TIC.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that for many years now, the football club has had to scour the field before they can access the pitch to look for any unwelcome presents left behind by our furry friends. If any are missed, this is not only very unpleasant for the players, but also potentially dangerous. Any faeces residue can contain the Toxocariasis worm which can result in blindness, especially in children. This should not be happening. I hasten to add that everyone on the working party are dog lovers - we just want everyone to pick up their dog's poop and put the bag in a bin or take it home. Bins are plentiful around Appleby, and poop bags can be deposited in any bin.

The work we are doing is underpinned by the Public Space Protection Order recently published by W&F Council. This contains information on the law as it applies to both dog fouling and dogs not under control. However, what we really want is for people to recognise that not picking up after their dog is not socially acceptable. Neither is bagging it and hanging it from a tree (it's not a decoration) or, perhaps even worse, leaving it on someone's window sill or doorstep. Believe it or not, this has happened! A few years ago, before I became a councillor, I set up a Facebook group called Appleby Residents Against Dog Fouling. Many people joined and told of their experiences, some quite horrific. There were numerous incidents reported, including children

falling in the mess and a wheelchair user getting it on their hands. Appleby town centre, the riverside, residential areas and footpaths are all impacted.

The working party had great support for a few months last year from two Westmorland & Furness employees, Richard Scoffham who is Eden's Community Development Officer, and Andrea Atkinson from South Lakes. They brought with them invaluable advice and support, contributing many helpful ideas. Looking to the future, we would like more members of the community to join the working party, or to simply act as volunteers to help out as and when needed. There is a questionnaire available, some copies of which are on the table, but you can also email us on appleby.rdogroup@yahoo.com. Completed forms can either be emailed back to us or hard copies dropped into the TIC.

As for the fun times, this year we are hosting a Dog Show on Saturday 28th June. It will be a fabulous event which is being organised jointly with Eden Animal Rescue who will benefit from all proceeds. There will be lots going on, including plenty of doggy related advice from the professionals and 12 fun competitions that you can enter your dog in, from the waggiest tail to the biggest ears! A fun day for all the family, more details will be announced on social media and information will be provided to the TIC.

Finally, if you come across any dog fouling, please report it to W&F Council. This is easy to do, simply go onto the website and search for dog fouling, which will lead you to a simple form to complete and submit online. If you manage to take a photo of the dog and their owner, then W&F council can investigate and potentially prosecute and fine. All contact details are on the form and the questionnaire.

Councillor Paula Heap
Appleby Town Council

Appleby Smarter

Appleby Smarter is a group made up of volunteers who take pride in the appearance of our lovely town. We are a sociable group of mainly retired folk, and we all enjoy the company and companionship of the group, so much so that we have built up strong friendships throughout the time that we have been volunteering. We are still very proud that we were nominated for a King's Award for volunteer groups

Here are just a few of the jobs that we have carried out and will carry out in the near future to make a difference to the town. We recently started in Boroughgate, varnishing and painting all the wooden benches and will continue to do so to such benches throughout the rest of town.

In the past weeks we have also been clearing Back Lane as it needed a lot of tidying up following the previous strong winds. We have also cleaned and painted the steps to the Moot Hall in the centre of town. Then there was the clearing and cutting back of the foliage on the raised bed and adjoining area by the bridge at the start of the Buttes. We also cleaned the new bollards on the Buttes leading up to the first shelter. We have recently cleaned the steps up to Appleby Grammar School and Holme Wood and cut back the foliage on the wall and cleared the pavement along Battlebarrow, leading up to Appleby Grammar School. We cleaned up the whole area around Jubilee Bridge and scraped the moss off the sides of the bridge.

In the summer we will be going back to Appleby Station to mow the grass around and paint the stones spelling out the name of the town. We will also be cutting back and weeding the pathway behind the Methodist Chapel on the Sands and will also be keeping the paths clear and cutting back foliage in the Memorial Gardens at the top of the path. We take a lot of pride in our work carried out as regards those gardens. We feel that this should be done as visitors to the town who use the station and walk into town get a first impression of Appleby and get a very good view of the town from the Gardens.

There are lots of jobs that we do around the town as you can see. We also work very closely with the Town Clerk and we find the Council very supportive of our group. Appleby Smarter is open to everyone and we very much welcome new volunteers. Our numbers have grown this year. Thank you for listening to our report and if you see us in the town wearing our high visibility vests then please do say hello.

Frank Dolby

Appleby Air Cadets

Qualification	No of cadets	Qualification	No of cadets
1st Class Classification	7	Blue Leadership	9
Leading Classification	3	Bronze Leadership	1
Senior Classification	2	Blue First Aid	11
Master Classification	2	Bronze First Aid	3
Blue DofE	1	Blue Field Craft	8
Bronze DofE	1	Bronze Radio 1	1
Bronze Cyber	1	Blue Shot – L144 Riffle	7
Basic Swimming Award	5	Blue Radio	11
Intermediate Swimming	1	Weapons Handling Test	16
SNCO Course	1	Bronze Shot	1
Blue Road Marching	1	Silver Leadership	1

It's been a busy year, and one way to show this is to share some of the figures about what we have all achieve this year. But from when I think back over the last year the cadet's achievement and their enthusiasm to try new things is outstanding.

We have been flying twice in the last year, and gliding once, unfortunately it would have been a lot more times, but we are slaves to the weather, and if the conditions are not right then they don't fly. But when they do finally get the opportunity, they get 25-30 minutes in the air, where they get the opportunity to take control of the plane or glider, and in the planes case the pilots love doing the acrobatics with them. Some cope with this better than others and can be a little wobbly when they return to the airfield are a little green.

We have worked with Cumbria Police to host 2 cybercrime evenings and are looking are doing more in the future. Especially as the cadets didn't manage to escape rooms challenge set, which was in part down to the fact that they spend too long working out how to open a briefcase. Even those who worked out the combination couldn't work out how to slide the buttons to get the latches to open. It was interesting and rather entertaining to watch.

We have done some first over the last year, we managed to take 23 cadets to Normandy from both Appleby and Whitehaven. It was an experience that I know I won't forget, and hopefully the staff and cadets that join me won't either. It was jam packed, with learning and fun and very fitting to do it for the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. I brought the memory book with me that we gave to each cadet in case anyone would like to have a look at it.

I did my first summer blues camp at RAF Lossiemouth, in fact apart from Flying it's the first time I've ever been on a RAF base, and I'm not too old or proud to admit that I was really nervous about it. I had an amazing week, got the opportunity to step inside a Nimrod, which I never thought I would do, and the Possidans.

We also sent a cadet to the National Aerospace Camp for the first time in many years. There are usually around 100 cadets in Cumbria and Lancs

alone that apply for this, and we are lucky if we get 8 places, so to have a cadet chosen on her merit was quite an achievement.

In May we went to Wing Competition Day and came home with a trophy from Leadership, which is a real credit to the 3 cadets. They won against some stiff competition of 36 other sqns. The Banner team entered for the first time, because they wanted to do it and came 14th, which is an amazing achievement.

After a weekend at Inskip and a chat with a member of staff, we decided it would be a great idea for Appleby to have a Mayor's Cadet. The Town Council jumped at the idea and Sgt Rimmer has represented the sqn this year with pride, and I looking forward to see who takes up the sword this year, literally.

We also like to have a bit of fun along the way, hosting a great summer barbeque for cadets and their families, which thanks to Sgt Simpson's excellent cooking and the sunshine was a great night. The squadron annual water fight was fun as always, although I'm not sure who enjoyed it more the staff or the cadets.

Our cadets are proud each year to turn out and help with the poppy appeal, and take part in the Remembrance Day Parade, with 95% of the sqn attending. Some with just over a month's experience within the squadron, which is always a challenge, but one that they rise to every year.

We work closely with our feeder schools, through assemblies and had another successful open evening and intake of cadets this past year, and although some of them have decided that the cadets isn't for them, the cadets we have gained are keen to be involved and try new things. After a difficult time with staffing, we are in the process of getting some new staff through the paperwork to help on squadron.

That is only a flavour of what we have done this year, but we do have a public Facebook page that you can follow if you want to see what the squadron is up to, or we are looking for help on our civilian committee, which if anyone is interested in, they meet every 2 to 3 months and are responsible for the fundraising side of cadets. I am happy to talk to anyone if you would be interested.

Thank you!

FS Dawn Brown

St Anne's Almshouses

Lady Anne completed the Almshouses in 1653 soon after her return to Cumbria. A group of voluntary Trustees are now responsible for the care and maintenance of the properties, which have been modernised many times over the years. 13 houses make up the group, each house lived in by single ladies as set out in the original Trust Deeds. Over the years, the maintenance has been funded by the income from a local farm, left in Trust by Lady Anne Clifford for that purpose.

As the buildings aged, and because of inappropriate finishes such as cement plaster, and poor ventilation, damp was becoming an increasing problem. Our residents were troubled by this and needed Trustees to take action. If the Almshouses were going to be a desirable place to live for the next 40 years, then the Trustees had to improve the fabric of the building and the infrastructure. With a few vacant properties, the Trustees can refurbish the houses in phases, as the Ladies are generously prepared to move temporarily to completed houses and return to their original houses in due course.

2023 saw an ambitious programme of redevelopment move to the drawing board. Building work started in January 2025 and the plan is now well underway, and should be complete in the early months of 2026.

The Scheme will:

- improve insulation in the roof and on the walls,
- install modern and efficient heating and hot water systems with a single air source heat pump distributing heat round all 13 houses
- upgrade the ventilation systems
- improve bath and shower facilities
- rewire and replumb all the houses
- provide new kitchen facilities
- improve storage for rubbish and recycling

These changes are designed to make the building appropriate for the next 30-40 years, and ensure that the Almshouses remain a safe, comfortable and enjoyable place to live. The Almshouse Association has generously supported the project with a significant grant repayable over 10 years. Additional work has been funded by capital held in reserve, Government Grants from Homes England, (payable retrospectively) bank loans and other Grants. We did not receive the full funding we might have liked, but had clear phases in the redevelopment that we could defer, so that we could do the most necessary work with the funds we secured.

Alasdair Darroch

Appleby Remote Cinema

Our aim: to promote, organise and encourage the showing of cinematic and other cultural events in Appleby.

This is our 13th year showing films in Appleby. We couldn't do this without our volunteers who work hard to help increase access to arts, culture and quality films in Appleby. We choose our films twice a year, usually from a menu curated by Cine North, but not exclusively. The films include arthouse, British, foreign language and one or two blockbusters or locally made films. Crucially, we theme our food offer, so for example, a film and food ticket of just £12 will buy you a ticket to see One Life, (a film about Nicolas Winton who rescued hundreds of Jewish children from Prague during WW2), a bowl of authentic Borscht with sour cream and home baked sourdough bread. On the night Andy Connell also spoke about one of the children, Otto Pick who came to school in Appleby and went on to do very well. This event was a fundraiser for Cumbria Aid Ukraine and we were able to raise £800 to buy a vehicle to be converted into an emergency ambulance for the Ukrainian war effort. Film only tickets are still just £4. We offer an affordable, safe and social night out for singles, friends, families and visitors alike.

In 2024 we showed 10 films including: A Man Called Otto, Eight Mountains (an Italian film), The Old Oak, Oppenheimer, Wicked Little Letters and Perfect Day (set in Japan, in Japanese with subtitles, directed by Wim Wenders). Plus, Santa Paws for Appleby's Sparkle Day event, supported by ACAT.

Over 13 years, we have built up a core, faithful audience that seem to come to whatever we put on. In 2024, 650 people enjoyed our film shows. Of these our smallest audience was 44 for Oppenheimer and our largest 87 for A Man Called Otto.

15 volunteers put in a conservative 700 volunteer hours. At the going rate of £13.70 an hour, that's £9,590 in real money. We regularly work with local businesses to cater food for our films. We supported 10 local businesses and put over £4399 into Cumbrian businesses and into the local economy. We paid £1422 to the Town Council for hall rental which contributes to the running of the hall on a regular basis; we paid £997 to Cine North for cinema licenses.

We support local charities and creative initiatives. In 2024 we gave a total of £2549 to: Cumbria Aid Ukraine, Medical Aid for Palestinians, Appleby Library Crafty Women's Group for materials towards the crocheted Xmas Tree in the Market Square, Appleby Grammar School 'A' Level Art trip to Manchester and a local musical concert Treble-Alto-Duo performed by professional members of the Royal Northern Sinfonia.

Karen Babayan

Appleby & District Voluntary Social Car Scheme

I am the Co-ordinator for this area, which is part of a council-wide organisation. Together with 7 drivers, who like me are volunteers, we offer transport to almost anyone in this area who needs to go almost anywhere and cannot find any other means of doing so.

We have over 170 customers on my database, of whom around 50 are currently active. The scheme operates on a 'first come, first served' basis and only occasionally do I have to turn down requests, usually because they are made at short notice.

Drivers make a charge to customers at the rate of 50p per mile for the first 20 miles and 30p thereafter, which goes towards their expenses. The mileage covered by drivers to and from the customers' homes is claimed by the drivers from Westmorland and Furness Council. If the request is to pick a prescription or something else on behalf of the customer, the charge is 45p per mile and 25p for any additional miles.

To request journeys, I can be contacted on 017683 53159, leaving name and contact number if I am out.

Valerie Kendall