



NEWS RELEASE

21ST February 2017

New ACT Trustees

ACTion with communities in Cumbria champions community and rural issues and are welcoming two energetic, committed people to join our board of trustees. As a registered charity that has been functioning for almost 70 years, we need trustee board members who can use their local knowledge and understanding to think strategically about how best to support rural communities to thrive.

Our two new ACT Board members come from very different backgrounds and bring a diverse range of skillsets and expertise to the table.

Sam attended school in Penrith before moving to Newcastle upon Tyne. She also lived in London and Leicester for a number of years before returning to Cumbria in 2003.

She has spent her working life in a variety of roles within the public, private and voluntary sectors including in primary and adult education and working for the Rural Women's Network, a network set up by ACT to support Cumbrian women in business.

For the last 10 years, Sam has worked within Economic Development at the County Council where she has developed and managed economic programmes including the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 Solway, Border and Eden LEADER Programmes. She has a keen interest in sustainable rural development and is committed to supporting local communities to resolve the issues that are facing them.

Charles Ecroyd lives near Armathwaite in the Eden Valley with his wife and their 2 children where he runs the family's agricultural & sporting estate. In recent years their home has become a licensed venue for a host of activities including weddings, varied events, lunches and dinners. Charles' wife, Sara, runs her own catering business.

Charles is currently the chairman of Cumbria and Lakes Local Access Forum, vice-chairman of Mitre Housing Association, a trustee of Eden Rivers Trust, vice-chairman of Armathwaite PCC, a Patron in the Inglewood group of churches, a vice-president of Lakeland Housing Trust, former chairman of Trustees of Armathwaite Old School Hall and a former president and chairman of the Cumbria branch of the CLA

Other ACT board members include a chartered account, farmer, businesswoman, conservationist, borough councillor, former local government manager and a community health volunteer.

The Trustees role as a Board is to support the staff in achieving ACT's aims in a professional, inspirational and cutting-edge manner. The Board of ACT meets approximately six times a year.

Chairperson, Des O'Halloran welcomed the new members to the board saying "Has it ever occurred to you that there is currently very little understanding of, and less meaningful support for, life in rural communities? ACT certainly believes this and we want to put it right by working with communities, helping them plan for their future and empowering them to take action.

This can result in terrific initiatives that can improve life in their towns, villages and parishes. ACT's role is an enabling one, and recognises that it is rural people themselves who must make the important decisions about their future. The technical term for this is 'infrastructure building' and it is out of fashion with government. Our view is that this is vital and we will blow the trumpet for it! Our new trustees will support ACT to help communities make a difference. "

To find out more about ACT please visit our website: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk



Sam Bramwell



Charles Ecroyd

- Ends -

Photo:

Further press information available from:

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Notes to Editors:

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria (ACT)

- ACT is the community development organisation and Rural Community Council for Cumbria.
- ACT champions community and rural issues and supports communities to plan for their future, develop projects, work with others, and influence and change policy.
- ACT's work focuses on helping people and communities achieve their aspirations; we provide practical advice and support and deliver training. Through a variety of partnerships we are also able to represent the interests of communities locally, regionally, and nationally.
- ACT is registered in England as Voluntary Action Cumbria, Charity Registration Number 1080875, Company Number 3957858.
- For more information, please visit ACT's website: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk