

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Roger Troughton FCA

I was thrilled when I was asked to resurrect this column for the Tethera. It's been quite a few years since I wrote my last Personality Profile and was sad to holster my pen after more than two years on a Scottish newspaper.

Today my first victim (oops, sorry, I meant subject!) is Roger Troughton who greeted me with a hint of trepidation when I popped into his workplace, Robinson+Co Accountants in Workington.

Roger seemed to relax slightly after I explained that this feature is about getting to know the person behind the business and not about anything controversial. However, he was still on guard, and I know that it's going to take a while for this column to earn trust with readers.

I soon discovered that Roger is an affable man with a warm nature that must put his clients at ease. He oozes dependability and a solid knowledge of his job, accountancy.

If you snapped Roger in half it would read 'Cumbrian' like a stick a rock all the way through.

"I grew up in Frizington into a farming family. My father worked in partnership with his two brothers on a farm that had 30 cows and 200 sheep and supported two families. But over the years it became increasingly obvious that this was not going to be sustainable for the next generation to come into" explained Roger. "My

mother recognised this and wanted something different and more rewarding for me."

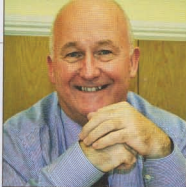
Roger did well at school demonstrating an aptitude for numbers, but the youngster had no interest in going off to university "When I was 18 I saw a job advertised for a trainee accountant at Robinsons Accountants in Whitehaven and got it." Roger worked his way up through the company and 24 years ago became Partner.

"I always say to students wanting to come into the profession that they don't necessarily need to be mathematicians, they just need a love and understanding of numbers and how they work." Roger continued with a wry smile "I surprise myself sometimes when a phone number I haven't dialled for over a year is still there in my memory and I can just reel it off instantly!"

A challenge

"I love walking, in fact a couple of years ago I set myself a challenge to walk round every lake and tarn in the Lake District." Roger laughed "I have no idea why I wanted to do this but it seemed a good idea at the time." So far Roger, accompanied on occasions by his wife Pamela, has circumnavigated 15 of them "The beauty of walking round a lake is that you can go round whichever way you like and there is always a nice pub for refreshment at the end." The Kirkstile at Loweswater is one of Roger's favourite pubs, "It has such good food and I particularly like their Loweswater Gold beer."

Last year Roger's walking companion and faithful friend George the Labrador passed



Roger with his dog George, who is no longer with us, at Floutern Tarn between Ennerdale and Crummock.