

FROME THIRD AGE

Minutes – Annual General Meeting – 8th January 2016

Assembly Rooms – 1400

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRPERSON: Tony Bearman welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased to see a good attendance.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Felicity Jones, Brenda Eaton, Sheila Herring, Pat Eames, Alan Somerville.
3. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM – 9th January 2015: As not everyone had a copy of the 2015 AGM Minutes it was proposed that these should be read at our next monthly meeting, 12th February 2016.
4. MATTERS ARISING: None
5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

The last year has been very eventful in many ways.

Two new Groups were set up, Indoor Games and Spanish Conversation. Our total number of Groups now stands at 22.

Unfortunately our Groups Co-ordinator, Sylvia Hodges, had to stand down from this Office due to ill health and I'm grateful to Cliff Howard for stepping in and carrying on with that activity.

Back in April the Committee hosted a Coffee Morning for New Members. This was very well supported and most enjoyable. It is anticipated that a similar Coffee Morning will be held in April this year and invitations will be sent out nearer the time.

At our Monthly Meetings we had some excellent speakers with a wide variety of topics and last month The Frome Musical Theatre Company Concert Parties Group once again entertained us.

Our Web Site is continuing to be a very effective way of communication. Last month we had approximately 1100 "hits" (that's the number of times it was viewed), that's an average of about 36 times each day!

My thanks go to Peter Alexander for auditing our books and to Maureen Wood and Sandra Newell for being First Aiders at our Monthly Meetings.

And finallyI owe a huge debt of gratitude to my colleagues on the Committee for their commitment, enthusiasm, support and friendship. It has been a privilege for me to have been part of the team over the last four years, an experience I will never forget.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT: There was nothing of note for the Secretary to report, but Ursula Smallman gave a short report on behalf of Felicity Jones, our Membership Secretary, who was unable to attend the meeting.

As at 31st December 2015 we have a membership of 172, which is most encouraging and would indicate that we are doing something right.

Sadly we have lost three members this year who have died, namely Penny McGarvie, Maureen Pearson and Susan Waterman.

Ursula concluded by reminding members that the annual membership fee is now due. We have been able to keep this fee to the current £15, which is good news.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: Brian Harris presented us with the annual accounts, which have yet to be audited.
8. SPEAKER SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jean Bryer was grateful for the comments of members, being very helpful when planning future speakers. Jean aims to make talks as varied as possible and covering the interests of our various groups in the widest sense. She is always open to suggestions so encouraged members to bring to her notice anyone they may feel could offer an entertaining or informative talk. We were reminded to consider that speakers are usually busy people so as much notice as possible is required.
9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairperson: Cliff Howard as incoming Chairperson at this point took the Chair from Tony Bearman. He gave a warm vote of thanks to Tony for his contribution and hard work over the past four years of his service (as Vice Chair and subsequently Chair) and noted that Christine, his wife had been a stalwart support both to Tony and F3A in general.

Vice Chairperson: Veronica Parker was proposed by Christopher Hare and seconded by Elizabeth Wakefield. Veronica was voted in by a show of hands.

Remaining Committee Members are willing to continue in office:

Secretary - Ursula Smallman
Treasurer - Brian Harris
Speaker Secretary – Jean Bryer
Membership Secretary – Felicity Jones

10. AUDITOR: Peter Alexander is willing to continue as Auditor for F3A and the Committee fully supports him in this position.
11. SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Should we continue with the August break in our monthly meetings?

Various members made suggestions and it was considered that if it was agreed not to have a break, this meeting might take a different form, ie that we do not have a speaker but make it a more social event, such as a barbeque or afternoon tea. It was proposed by Janet Cooke and seconded by Freda Green that we should have an August meeting. By a show of hands there were 30 in favour and 14 against, with other members abstaining. It was agreed that there would be further discussion as to the format at the forthcoming Co-ordinators meeting in February.

12. GROUP NEWS: News was given from the Chair and from individual co-ordinators.

The meeting closed and we moved to the annual quiz.