



Annual General Meeting Minutes Tuesday 15th March 2016

Dower House.

Committee members -Maurice Bardon(Lavender Tea Rooms), Neil Leonard (the Wine Shop),Jade and John Clark,(Piccalilly), Steve Teggin(Teggins Hairdressers),Melissa Mouncey (George & Dragon).Tracey Kingston White (Kingston White Opticians).

Welcome speech by John Clark (Piccalilly).
apologies from Geoff Rogers, Sally Cummings, Newton House, Printzone, & coriander, Sarah Chism,

President's Report by Maurice Bardon (Lavender Tea Rooms).

MB reported on the Spring Fayre 2015 - one day was poorly attended due to the weather , however the dry day brought in some good numbers.
Next year this is scheduled for the 2nd weekend in May with hopefully better weather prospects.A festival of dance will be included .
Help is required for a Chamber presence on the Easter Fayre committee.

Xmas Market was disappointing this year and needs reinvigorating chamber needs new input and manpower to improve it for next Christmas. People commented how an Edwardian theme would be good as has been held in previous years.Some of the stall were rather lack lustre.

Xmas trees were organised and erected by non paid committee members and helpers including Paul Sigsworth and ST.Most survived the wind this year.

Hanging baskets - this year we still have 20 more available from the council although the deadline for responses has past. Some members advised they had not received notification - Neil Leonard (treasurer) will negotiate for more if members require a basket and have not yet applied - please contact NL urgently (60 applications to date).

MB commented on the high quality of the Town Maps which have been organised by Steve Teggin (ST) and his team. If any businesses want to advertise on these contact ST.

The socials this year were well attended and included the New Years dinner dance held at the Dower House, summer barbeque at Carriages in conjunction with BLOK..

MB thanked the committee for their help.
This is MB's 6th and final president's report.

Treasurers Report - Neil Leonard (the Wine Shop).

Copies of income and expenditure report were circulated.

There was a surplus this year of £1400 - largely due to the fact that we had less xmas lights to replace this year.

There was also an oversight in a non payment to FEVA.

Payments to projects - defibrillators ,Fright Night, Spring Fayre , Xmas Market, Xmas lights, Bed Race.

Town crier payments for uniform.

The Oxfam representative queried where Chambers funding comes from- all from subscriptions , no funding from council etc. some minimal profit from Xmas tress, hanging baskets .

A query as to why we pay for shop cleaning - this is to keep the town looking smart - landlords do not look after their empty properties so once a month have a window cleaner who pulls down old posters and cleans inside/exterior windows.

Chamber have had no luck in trying contact the relevant landlords for assistance.

The accounts were proposed by MB and seconded by ST.

Power point overview of Chamber projects - Melissa Mouncey (George and Dragon) and Jade Clark

Active members at present are Jade Clark (and husband John), Steve Teggin, Neil Leonard, Mel Mouncey, Tracey Kingston White, Maurice Bardon (retiring).

Town Crier is Roger Hewitt, and deputy Crier Paul Sigsworth.

THE Town guides/leaflets are distributed to town premises ,and local hotels (by Geoff Rogers), and handed out at Mother Shiptons.

Chamber are hoping to help and become involved with the Wind In the Willows project.

A new Chamber website is being developed which will post info and committee minutes, meeting dates etc. Sue Mcqueen and Jade are working on this with input from Gareth Chapman.

New committee members and working parties are now required.

Knaresborough on Line-

Gareth Chapman gave a talk on the revamped website which provides information on Knaresborough

The site was originally set up by Ms Jackson 10 years or so ago and has now been relaunched with 936000 visits from 162000 Ip addresses, 50% of which are Yorkshire based The philosophy of the site is to support non profit making organisations and is non profit making.

There is an history section , knaresborough business and residents section.

It is the web presence of the Lions .

It is responsive site with SEO.Facebook and twitter presence.

Gareth is considering a Knaresborough ap.

There are free listings for Knaresborough businesses and optional enhanced links.Display ads are available.

Cost of an ad is £11.95 for 3 months and this can be animated.

Steve Teggin - Brief overview.

Thanks to everyone for attending.

Thanks to Maurice for all his critical and hard work who is now retiring after 6 years as Chamber's president and 10 years membership.

Chamber has been in existence since 1903 , Geoff Rogers has been a member for 40 years.Geoff is now retiring from attending meetings but will still take an interest.

However Chamber is now short of active members and we really need to encourage as many members as possible to become more involved and consider being committee members (8 required).

Various roles are required and nomination forms for committee and volunteers working party will be circulated by email as well as available at the meeting.

Committee does involve attending meetings and additional work (must be members), volunteer working group do not need to be members ,may be suitable for non business owners.

We as business owners (and residents) need to actively support Knaresborough to keep it vibrant and attractive and show to our appreciation - our business' s viability are linked to a successful and busy town.

Chamber would like to be more active in future projects but to do this we need more help from all our members.

A meeting is to be held at Steve Teggin on Thursday 24th March at 6pm for nominations and discussion of roles.

Oen discussion-

Blackmulberry owner requested more emails to be sent out/welcome pack and info for new businesses.

- welcome pack is available but lack of membership secretary lack of numbers to go round premises at present.

What is the percentage of local businesses who are members ?

MB replied no corporate businesses are members (due to head office cut backs)only independents. Percentage unknown .

Question from Oxfam rep - are any charity shops members - no.- She will try to encourage this.

Jenny Roux (BLOK/Henshaws) asked where leaflets needed to be delivered to ? - most members are centrally based but some further afield.

Chris (Carriages) suggested some of the surplus funds be used for leaflet distribution.

Charlotte Gale (photography) asked if she could attend meetings if not on the committee - previously meetings had a committee element and an open meeting afterwards , however no one ever attended these - we need to publicise the meetings more effectively.

Maggie - Xmas Fayre disappointing this year - would like to see the return of the Edwardian theme. Black Mulberry - St Johns Tree festival helped the market.

Bill Rigby - Town Council - expressed solidarity for Chamber, and would like to keep links with Chamber

John Batt -Town Council agreed with John Batt.

Previously Chamber have had a council rep as an active committee member but no replacement since Tony Handly left.

Sarah -Vintage tea rooms- suggested that all businesses/attendees should have introduced themselves - this was then done .

Carriages rep asked about the defibrillators use /cost/lack of promotion.

Matt Ward was behind the project with donations from Chamber and others. There are another 2 planned.He offered to help Chamber co ordinate more events to promote the defibs.

Jade will help lease /make introductions. Town maps in future could show defib locations.

John Batt offered to organise rests training through the air ambulance team for Chamber members- this offer was well received.

Andy Grintner (Art in the Mill) pointed out that Chapel St car park is closed leading up to Easter weekend for resurfacing.

ST encouraged attendees to take nomination forms and come along on 24th

Thank you to everyone for attending.

Next AGM scheduled for March 14th 2017.

Tracey Kingston White (minutes secretary)
Knaresborough Chamber of Trade