



High Wycombe Gateway Club

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm

Venue - Wrights Meadow Centre

Present: Steve Sanders (Chairman)  
Jackie Boyce and Penny Checker (Club Leaders)  
Viv Hale (Treasurer)  
Mike Owen-Evans – Trustee  
David Willans - Trustee  
Club Members & Volunteers

Apologies: Guy Oltmann-Reeve (Secretary and Trustee)

#### 1. Welcome by Chairman

Steve Sanders welcomed the club members, carers volunteers & committee members to the AGM. He pointed out that it has been three years since he was elected Chairman and during this time the Club had grown from strength to strength so much so that for the first time in its history the Club had to recently turn away a proposed new member. Prospective new members would have to go onto the Gateway website to apply for membership and the memberships would be dealt with chronologically. The success of the Club is due in no small part, to the wonderful support afforded by staff from Wright's Meadow. It was lovely to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of Wright's Meadow recently during what was a great day apart from the weather. The Gateway Choir led by Jo were magnificent and it is hoped that Jo will again attend nearer Christmas for a session of Christmas carols.

Steve then announced that the first fire drill will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> September and ran through the plan and instructions as to what everyone should do in the event of a fire on the premises.

Jackie also added that it was of vital importance to sign in on arrival to Wright's Meadow on the 24<sup>th</sup> September to enable roll-call to be accurate.

#### 1.1 To Consider the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 24th October 2023 were considered and accepted.

## 2. Treasurer's Report:

Viv reported that it had been a good year financially for the Club. Subscriptions had been increased to £4 from £3 per week since January last year. Subs were last raised in 2017. Subs last year totalled £8,500 which represented 2,500 ticks (attendees). An average of 60 members were attending Club each week. Out of the Subs various expenses had to be paid such as rent, public liability insurance, refreshments. Various other expenses were incurred such as discos (5), choir practices, John Johnny, Tee -shirts. Sundries amounted to £1,500.

Amongst the donations the sponsored walk on the Rye last year has totalled £6,500 - £3,000 for last year and £3,500 this year. £700 was raised at the annual quiz at Wright's Meadow organised by Dave Willans. £700 was donated via Coleshill Harvest Supper and there was also a £500 grant from Mencap.

Expenses included £1,500 for two coaches to Southend where members were treated to a free lunch. Other expenses were incurred for the ABBA Tribute evening in July and the Pantomime.

## 3. Club Leaders Report

Penny talked about the various fun activities that took place during the year such as the St. George's Day celebration and Jo helping to organise Choir practices. Deal or No Deal was another activity in addition to the playing of various board games. A 'how well do you know your volunteers' competition was held in addition to Chris introducing different sports games. A barbecue night was held at High Wycombe Cricket Club and a fun night was had taking part in Gateway's Got Talent. There was also a fun Lego night and to cap it all, Andy ran the Christmas Disco.

Jackie reminded members of the great time members had at the pantomime as well as the trip to Southend where everyone could play Mini Golf or paddle in the sea before having fish and chips. Jackie pointed out that the train at Southend ran on the longest pier in the country. There were two BBQs both of which were affected by bad weather.

Lots more activities were being planned for next year including the panto, Aladdin starring Vernon Kay.

### 3.1 To consider the renewal of member's information forms.

Penny handed out member's information forms at our first club week of the new term. Jackie and Penny will enter all the member's information onto the club database.

## 4. Fundraising

It had been decided to have a break from fundraising as it had been a very busy time for everyone. Rest assured that the committee would be getting together in the future to come up with some new ideas.

## 5. Member's Committee Election

To elect six club members to form the Member's Committee.

Thirteen members volunteered to be a Club Committee Member, and the following six members were duly elected:

Elizabeth, Kim, Elaine, Phillip, James Harris and Claire Patey.

## 6. To elect The Executive Committee.

The previously existing Executive Committee Members were duly re- elected.

## 7. Any Other Business

A rendition of Happy Birthday was sung for Viv and Maxine and other members not present.

In May we celebrated the Kings Coronation with a Street party. We dressed in red, white and blue and kings and queens. Ifti was winner of our most royal fancy dress competition he looked very regal with the crown he had made himself.

A huge thank you to WM who decorated the room and provided us with a banquet of delicious party food.

We also celebrated the Eurovision song contest with an evening of song and dance. We have a lot of talent at our club.

We have had opportunities to dance with Helen visiting us for some line dancing and John Johnnie teaching us some dance moves.

The Great Gateway Bake Off organised by Brenda and Andrea was so much fun. We were challenged to make a trifle, decorate a cake and to make a double decker sandwich. We had so much delicious food and a big thank you to Brenda and Andrea for the home-made cakes.

Our Barbie Party was full of pink costumes and pink food. We had a Barbie versus Ken sing and dance off and a fancy-dress parade. Julia was our Barbie winner wearing pink clothes, pink hair and pink jewellery.

We have offered sports activities in the big hall including archery, Bocca, exercise classes and indoor cricket. We are going to be working with High Wycombe cricket club who will be visiting us once a month for some cricket skills, indoor cricket and keep fit sessions.

We enjoyed a trip to Milestones Museum and to Brighton and we have the Panto to look forward to.

We would like to thank WM and all the staff and volunteers who welcome us on a Tuesday evening and help us out with setting up the room and joining in with our activities. We are pleased that you are part of our Gateway family.

Fundraising:

In the past year the Valentine's Disco raised £396 and the Quiz Night raised £835. The sponsored walk on the Rye raised, so far, an astounding £6,500 which included £536 from Wrights Meadow, £735 from The Friends of All Saints Church Coleshill and £3,590 from a Just Giving page set up by Ifti's sister Parveen.

Member's Committee Election:

An election was held for six club members to form the Member's Committee. The successful candidates are:

Habib Ismail  
Nick McStay  
Tom Perks  
Melissa Arnold  
Stephen Smith  
Paul Chapman

#### 4. Election of Executive Committee

The previously existing Executive Committee Members were duly re-elected.

#### 5. Any Other Business

Jon Todd was wished a happy birthday and there being no further business the members and volunteers in attendance were thanked and the Annual General Meeting closed at 8:35pm.