

Parkinson's UK Oxford and District Branch
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
Wednesday 1 March 2017 at 7.15 pm

1 Apologies

Wendy and Malcolm Benson, Kevin Mc Farthing, Joan and Mike Greenwood, Ian Pearson, Susan and Charles Steiner, Ros Tims, Adrian Turner.

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2016

Taken as read.

3 Chair's report

This has been a very busy year. I think it could be referred to as The Year of the Concerts! Starting in March with the Donkey House Band at South Hinksey Church then we moved to Dorchester Abbey in May for a magnificent concert with London Chorus and Instruments of Time and Truth. In November at the Sheldonian Theatre, Daniel Harding was conducting and Caroline Widman solo violinist. There was nothing that could surpass the Christmas Concert in the Cathedral. It was a year of planning but, boy, was it worth it!

It is with gratitude that we raise smaller sums through birthday gifts, grandchildren selling cakes in the street, plant stalls, coffee morning, community centre collections and a myriad of other ideas you have.

Our lunch last year was well attended and we all ate far too many chips and treacle pud, and the holiday was a happy occasion in the early autumn. Meeting up with Swindon Branch at Radcot House was a delightful afternoon and we have plans to repeat further meet ups with them and other branches. Our membership has grown considerably and I hope new members feel welcome.

Our speakers have been exceptionally high and we should feel well informed of current progress in the research into PD.

This branch supports the ENB classes. It also funds or subsidises the Big Bold and Balance classes around the county. Also PD Warrior and Active. The voice class is being planned to go to other venues too and it was especially good to include Parkinsingers into our Christmas Concert.

Our Respite Care initiative is going well with several people receiving the benefits of support.

This branch has some hidden heroes and I'd like to thank them....

Helen Warner and Wendy Benson – they greet us as we arrive at meetings and run the raffle which makes over £1000 per annum and the fund goes to pay for taxis for those who otherwise would be unable to come.

Helen Hamlett who arranges that tea and biscuits are here for meetings,

Malcolm Benson – for sticking with and running the 200 club

Lin Byrne who arranges taxis for those who cannot get to meetings

Our August and Sept meetings each year are for discussions and for them to take place I ask for help from professionals and they give their time freely.

Chrystalina Antoniadou gives us immense support and I hope her latest study OxQuip is successful.

And now we say farewell to some committee members:

Caroline George who thought up the Pants for Parkinson's slogan

Tom Collins who has contributed much to committee discussions

Jim Sheridan who has kept us informed of research going on both near and far: his contribution has been magnificent.

Diane Pearson who has developed her role as secretary to supporting membership and respite care. We will miss you all and we thank you.

I'd like to thank PUK for the events they organise and the support they offer branches.

Looking ahead...We have a coach taking people to London for Symfunny. We may book a further concert in Wigmore Hall in aid of PUK in July. We have plans to create a DVD of exercises so we can continue to exercise at home. We hope to extend voice classes to other parts of the county. We are planning a Conference to commemorate the publication of the Essay by Parkinson for Sept 19. We hope to meet with other branches at Blenheim Palace Park.

Deepest thanks to John Foster for creating and selling his Christmas Cracker Joke book.

Last but not least I thank Paul Mayhew Archer who has put Parkinson's into the public eye through his the Funny Side documentary.

4 Financial Statement

Carys Redmond, treasurer, announced that more than £96,500 had been raised and received. The 2016 Oxford Walk yielded £23,000 with a further £73,500 produced from Branch fundraising and donations. She thanked Kit Marriott for all his hard work as fundraiser.

The Branch has been able to subsidise the usual programme of activities, outings and meetings. We continue to drive forward the initiatives we started from the Merrett

legacy including respite care, voice classes and physio classes across the county. Donations have been made to research with £23,000 to the GABA project which was also the beneficiary of the oxford walk funds, £5,000 to the Brain Bank and £10,000 to the TRAPPING project which was also the beneficiary of the Oxford Walk funds.

5 Secretary's report

Diane Pearson, secretary reported that the branch had welcomed 35 new members with Parkinson's since the 2016 AGM. Membership now stands at 175 PwPs plus carers and supporters. Email is used to contact most members. Jem kindly sends branch material through the post to those who do not have computers. Sally was congratulated on producing a new branch logo featuring the dreaming spires.

Parking at the WI Hall remains a problem. Ambulant members were urged to use the business centre carpark in the evening. A search for new premises had not resulted in a satisfactory alternative.

6 Election of the 2017 committee

Abi White, Area Development Manager, took the chair and thanked the committee for its work in raising awareness of Parkinson's. Voting for the new committee took place, all were agreed.

Chair. Sally Bromley, proposed by Paul Mayhew-Archer, seconded by Kit Marriott.

Vice Chair. Jem Appleton, proposed by Carys Redmond, seconded by Sally Bromley.

Secretary. Pen Keyte, proposed by Sally Bromley, seconded by Kit Marriott.

Treasurer. Carys Redmond, proposed by Diane Pearson, seconded by Tom Collins.

Research Advisor. Kevin McFarthing proposed by Jim Sheridan, seconded by Paul Mayhew-Archer.

Fundraiser Kit Marriott, Membership Secretary Diana Townsend, Media and Publicity Officer Paul Mayhew-Archer, Programme Secretary Nigel Hamilton and Committee members George Philip, David Salisbury, Martin Tims and Jenyth Worsley were proposed en bloc by Crystalina Antoniadou seconded by Diane Pearson.

7 Welcome to the new committee

Abi White thanked the members for the election of the new committee.

8 Address

James FitzGerald, consultant neurosurgeon, spoke on Advances in Deep Brain Stimulation.

9 Wine and cheese