

# Parkinson's UK Oxford and District Branch

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on Wednesday 7 March 2018 at 7.00pm at the WI Hall Botley

### 1. Apologies

Susan Heywood, Stella and Peter Wood, Diana Townsend, Martin Cowell, Helen Old, David and Lin Byrne, Hanne Starling, Malcolm Benson, Ashley and Laura Lisle, Carys Redmond, Paul Mayhew-Archer, Tom Collins

### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

Taken as read

### 3. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on and celebrated another very busy year for the Oxford and District Branch. Events included a tribute to the fallen of the Great War in *Pity of War*, the September Conference attended by 400 people, in honour of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Publication of Parkinson's essay on the Shaking Palsy, and many talks and visits to do with the science and research currently underway in Parkinson's Disease. Our membership has increased. Innovations include First Steps, a highly successful programme for those first diagnosed with Parkinson's, and a re-launch of the Working Age Group (WAGS). Exercise classes have continued to be successful and highly important. The DVD of exercises to do at home is free for Oxon residents and is a joint venture between Age UK, the Physiotherapy Service, and the Oxford Branch. The Finding Your Voice Classes help those who are finding difficulty in speaking. We have had a very interesting array of speakers who have given insight into research into developments into treatments for Parkinson's disease. Carys has been an indefatigable Treasurer, and Kit an outstanding fundraiser. Paul Mayhew-Archer won an award for his documentary *Parkinson's: The Funny Side*, and is intending to follow this up with a launch into stand-up comedy. Nigel and Debbie Hamilton completed their 350 mile bike ride from Oxford to Durham, raising thousands of pounds for Parkinson's. We helped to greet and host the BOXCAM cycle ride, and will do so again on 22 September 2018. The Oxford Walk in 2017 raised £35,000. At most events there was an ample and generous supply of cakes made and donated by members. Our next challenge will be to make ourselves GDPR compliant, and we look forward to PUKs help and advice on this process. In addition we hope to extend our links with local Branches. Some changes have occurred in committee and other volunteer roles. The Chair thanked Kit Marriott for all his hard work in fundraising. He is to leave this role, but remains on the Committee. Jem Appleton and Martin Tims are leaving the Committee after many years of admirable contributions. Lin Byrne can no longer be responsible for organising respite care, due to increasing family commitments, and the Chair thanked her for her contributions.

### 4. Financial Statement

Carys Redmond the Treasurer was unfortunately absent because of family commitments, but she contributed a Financial summary according to which the Branch received/raised £104,460, of which £70,218 came from Fundraising and Donations including legacy, and £34,241 was raised by the 2017 Oxford Walk. This has enabled the branch to subsidise the usual program of activities, outings and meetings; deliver initiatives under the Merrett and Lewis legacies, including respite care, voice classes,

subsidised exercise classes, and subsidies for trips to the European Parkinson's Therapy Centre in Italy. In addition the Branch has donated £15,000 to S Cragg's project 'Working beyond dopamine for better therapies', and monies from the Oxford walk were attributed to Frances Platt's project investigating the waste disposal system in Parkinson's Disease.

The Chair reported that since the money from legacy is due to run out in 2018, it has been decided to reduce the subsidy for exercise classes, and charges will be introduced after Easter. We are grateful for everyone efforts in fundraising, at all levels.

## **5. Election of the New committee**

Delia Wells, the local Parkinson's adviser, took the Chair for these elections.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Chair	Sally Bromley	Kit Marriott	Kevin McFarthing
Vice Chair	Paul Mayhew-Archer	Sally Bromley	Pen Keyte
Research Officer	Kevin McFarthing	Sally Bromley	Nigel Hamilton
Treasurer	Carys Redmond	Kit Marriott	Sally Bromley
Secretary	Pen Keyte	Kit Marriott	Jenyth Worsley

### **Committee positions to vote enbloc**

Membership Secretary	Diana Townsend
Media and publicity	Paul Mayhew-Archer
Programme secretary	Nigel Hamilton
Taxis	Lin Byrne
Committee members	David Salisbury Jenyth Worsley Laura Tilt Ian Sargent Martin Cowell Jem Appleton Martin Tims

**6. Delia welcomed the new committee and handed the Chair back to Sally**

**7. Margaret Lipscomb, Chair U3A, gave a brief talk about U3A's Programme**

**8. The meeting closed with wine and cheese.**