

## **Minutes of VRG meeting Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

### **Present**

Ali, Anna, Barbara, Gordon, Jean, Liz, Mary, Mick, Mike, Mireille, Paul and Sam

### **Apologies**

David Brown, John, Manda and Sally

(David sent his good wishes to VRG as he is leaving the road after 40 years.)

The meeting welcomed Jean Knox, a newcomer to the road at number 16. It was noted that Mr and Mrs McCahill have bought David's house (no 27) and will be moving in shortly. Liz agreed to send welcome packs to all newcomers.

### **Review of Media Madness**

Thanks to Mary and Paul Lewis for hosting the event. This year there was a good supply of books with a donation of five boxes from one person alone.

Paul suggested that the event should be held every two years, but others in the meeting and people who attended this year, felt that it should be annual. To be reviewed when we plan the rest of the 2015 programme.

### **Carol Singing (5.15pm) & Christmas Party (6pm) Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Ali and Sam (number 56) have very kindly agreed to host this year's party which will start at 6pm. There is a budget of £100 for the event for wine etc. Paul, Mireille and Mike have offered to make the mulled wine.

John Clarke has once again agreed to arrange and lead the carol singing. Those wishing to join in should meet outside John and Manda's house, (number 105), where John will hand out song-sheets. The group will then wend their way down the road to the party, stopping under each lamppost to sing.

### **Film Club**

Jean raised the idea of a film discussion group. Everyone agreed that it should be considered. In the past the group have discussed the possibility of someone hosting a film night, with a DVD being projected onto a screen or wall.

Mireille suggested another option whereby those interested would view a chosen film at home, or at the cinema, and meet afterwards to discuss it.

Jean said that she had a large screen and a projector and offered to host a film evening. Ali, Gordon and Mireille agreed to form a sub-committee to discuss the possibilities. Report back at January meeting.

### **Quiz Night - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

There was a general consensus that the Quiz Night is a popular event and helps to raise money for VRG. Anna suggested that the invitation could be widened to Hamilton Road to increase participation. It was emphasised that Victoria Road residents can bring friends along from far and wide.

Ali mentioned that there had been problems in the past with pitching the questions at the right level. Anna suggested downloading questions from pub quiz websites where a wide selection of subjects and ability levels can be found. Mireille was keen that a section is included with questions on local knowledge which everyone agreed

had been successful in the past. Anna, Mick and Paul will form a sub-committee to plan the event and compile questions. Mary agreed to find out about the availability of the hall. (It is free on 28<sup>th</sup> February and she will book.)

### **Cotteslowe Community Centre**

During a discussion about the Centre's financial difficulties, we considered trying to help by raising awareness through a VRG event such as the Quiz. It was suggested that someone from the Centre could attend, speak briefly about donations and that Standing Order forms could be placed on tables. Ali was concerned that Quiz participants would be turned off by being asked for money. Mick suggested that we leave S.O. forms on a table somewhere near the door and that at some point in the evening, the Quiz host could draw the audience's attention to them. In the end it was decided to make a low-key announcement at the Quiz and nominate someone present who could provide more information to anyone interested.

Paul undertook to find out more about the Centre's needs and bring forward to the next meeting.

**Green Balloon Day** is planned for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015

### **Possible Music Evening**

Barbara expressed an interest in another Music evening as it has been a while since the last one. Whilst agreeing it would be a nice idea, Paul, Mary and Mick had reservations. Having been involved before, they were keenly aware of the huge amount of work for participants and organisers, not to mention the cost of the hall. It seemed unlikely that another Music Evening would be staged in the near future but this can be discussed at future meetings.

### **2015 Annual Garden Party** (Date to be fixed at next meeting)

Paul has approached Mary McKnight and she is willing to host next year's event. Andrew Ritchie and Barbara Harriss-White have both kindly offered to be reserves for 2015 or to host in future years.

**VRG accounts** – Anna reported our current balance as £315.53.

### **AOB**

a) Jean suggested that VRG and Cotteslowe Community Centre could work together on larger local issues such as the Northern Gateway and the Neighbourhood Plan for St Margaret's and Summertown. Ali felt that it was not the remit of the VRG to get involved in larger issues that affect wider areas of Oxford. She pointed out we have no mandate to represent others in the road.

b) Paul suggested setting up a Facebook page for VRG to make it easier to contact residents en masse. Liz agreed that it would be a good idea, and many similar groups communicate in this way. There was not much enthusiasm amongst some others at the meeting. Mick felt that it would compromise privacy and that using the current system of group email worked very well. Paul agreed to come back to the next meeting with details of how VRG might work as a closed group on Facebook.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm Thanks to Ali and Sam for hosting.

### **Date of next meeting**

8pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Mary and Paul's home (number 46)