

Victoria Road Group

Notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2017 at Jonathan and Sally's, no.59

Present: Sam (Chair), Jonathan (notes), Sally, Paul, Mick, Anna, Gordon, Pen, Vickie

1 Apologies

Received from Sue Bates, Mary Lewis, Jean Knox, Ali Clarke, Philippa O'Connor and Bob Crabtree.

2 Notes of previous meeting

Those present agreed they were a proper record, with the minor observation that the next meeting date was wrong (11th instead of 14th Nov). Thanks were offered to Mary for preparing the notes.

3 Matters arising from the previous meeting

3.1 Welcome pack

Jonathan had delivered five or six copies after the previous meeting, and was about to update the document with useful minor amendments suggested by various people. Additional copies should go to numbers 41, 55 and 113, but it was felt to be better to wait until the new residents had moved in (and cleared their large heaps of mail backlog) before delivering them.

Action: Jonathan

3.2 Finance

Anna reported that we have a total of £358.65 of which £24.99 is held in cash, the remainder in the bank. This is unchanged from the last report, apart from a minor correction of £1. This would comfortably cover the forthcoming Christmas social event, and no other major expenses were imminent.

4 Safari Supper review

Thirteen parties of 2 and three singletons had participated, slightly more than the previous occasion; a fourteenth party of 2 was forced to drop out at the last minute owing to illness. The event was generally felt to have been a success, and it was noted that hosts had clearly taken some trouble to provide interesting and attractive courses.

It was pleasing to note that some younger or new residents had taken part.

For a future run it was suggested that we should encourage hosts to include their children or other family members in their own course, even though it is not practical to include children in the event as a whole. It was suggested that the invitation flyers could be made more attractive by including quotes from previous participants.

The chair thanked Jonathan, Jessica and Alfred for having organised the event.

5 Future VRG events

5.1 Christmas social and carol singing (Sunday 10th December)

Jessica and Alfred had offered to host, but we had subsequently received an offer from Andrew Ritchie (no.80) and it seemed good to use that as a new venue. Sam will contact Andrew to confirm, and to offer help as needed on the day from Jonathan and Sally.

Action: Sam

Mary and Vickie would prepare the mulled wine as before. Jonathan and Sally could offer preserving pans.

Action: Mary, Vickie (on the day)

Bob Crabtree would purchase the wine and other ingredients. A budget target of under £100 was suggested, but up to £120 was possible. Some soft drinks should be provided.

Action: Bob

VRG glasses would need to be delivered to no.80 on the day. Most are held by Sam but Jonathan currently has one box.

Action: Sam, Jonathan

Paul will prepare an invitation flyer based on last year's with the same timings. It should include a request that people bring a small plate of appropriate food. Jonathan will print the flyer ASAP; Pen and Mick will distribute.

Action: Jonathan, Paul, Pen, Mick

Mick and Paul kindly offered to lead the carol singing, using the same booklet as last year (Jonathan to print a few copies). Paul to choose a starting venue. We should encourage youngsters to participate.

Action: Mick, Paul

5.2 Media Madness (4th February 2018, 3pm-5pm at No.102a)

Paul will draft and Jonathan will print a notice in early January (there will be no VRG meeting before then). We should also include a mention of it in the Christmas social invitation flyer. We will try to use up our existing stock of pale green paper for both flyers even though the darker green colour is preferred. People should be encouraged to provide some cake, but the hosts provide coffee/tea.

Action: Paul, Jonathan (Jan.2018)

Mick was happy to receive books and other materials from Friday evening, 2nd Feb.

5.3 Film Night

Jean Knox had again offered to host this, on Thursday 1st Mar 2018. VRG should send an email invitation in February encouraging those interested to book with Jean directly by email – she can accommodate roughly 20. Sam will confirm the details with Jean.

Action: Sam

6 Chair

Philippa O'Connor had offered to chair VRG with effect from 1st January 2018. Her offer was unanimously accepted, and the meeting expressed gratitude to her for taking it on. Philippa's work schedule restricts VRG meetings to Sunday or Monday.

7 AOB

7.1 Scrabble League

Agreed that Gordon and Mick would continue to consider this.

8 Date of next meeting

Monday 12th February 2018, at Paul and Mary's (no.46), 8.00-9:30pm.

The meeting adjourned after thanking Jonathan and Sally for hosting.