



Annual General Meeting **14th Feb 2009**

Members present:

Paul Gillett, Chris Dutton, Jackie Campbell, Keith Turner, Shirley West, Dorothy Duboisson, Ruby Woolvern, Jim Lee, Colin Bennett.

Volunteers Present:

Jonathan Dutton, Valerie Mainstone, Christina Mendez, Sue Joseph, Carl Boardman

Also Present:

Valerie Lee

Apologies sent by:

Connie French, Christine Laurence, Graham Oulton, Katy Wheatland

Minutes for AGM 2008 were read and agreed

Matters Arising

Sussex Lantern: Paul reported that concerns continue to be expressed and discussions continue at different levels

Key Fobs: Now issued by the sensory team (telephone 295555). Keith reported 10 more bus stops are to be enabled for key fobs, and improvements are being considered to improve the service. Colin welcomed key fobs. On the one hand he noted that asking directions of sighted bus users was good interaction, but the fobs indicated the advances made in

assisting people with sight loss. There is more progress to be made: London buses have on-board announcements (route, destination and next stop are continually announced).

Colin reported that he had graduated from his Open University Course in Law and was congratulated.

Eye T 4 All: the course went ahead and was a good example of joint working with ESAB and the Low Vision Unit.

Police Checks for Volunteers: In response to a question from Colin, the AGM was told that Police Checks cost approximately £15. They are not considered intrusive. Sue said that it had been troublesome to get the check completed. Valerie said that she would smooth the process having resumed the role of volunteer's co-ordinator.

Colin spoke regarding his campaign to remove obstacles from pavements, especially A Boards. Valerie had also discussed this matter with the local police. To be discussed again.

Chair's report was presented by Paul. (copy on our web site and available on request) Our success in winning the Argus charity of the year was celebrated and Paul expressed heartfelt thanks to all members and volunteers

Chris gave a vote of thanks for all Paul's hard work, which was much appreciated by all.

Treasurer's Report presented by Jonathan on behalf of Chris. Accounts accepted. Copy on website and available on request

Bank balance at year end £3,036, during the year we received grants of £1,500 from the Robin Hood Pub and £1,000 from Legal & General as part of our Charity of the Year award .

Paul gave a vote of thanks for Chris and Jonathan's diligence presenting and managing the budget.

Election of Officers

President – Keith

Nominated - Chris

Seconded – Jackie

Secretary – Paul

Nominated - Chris

Seconded – Shirley

Treasurer – Chris

Nominated – Shirley

Seconded – Jim

Committee – Jackie, Ruby, Shirley, Jim

Nominated – Paul

Seconded – Dorothy

Activities :- 2008 – 2009

Much enjoyed by all:-

Amongst those planned for coming weeks - Ten-pin bowling plus meal at Pizza Hut, Guided tour of Sealife Centre, Archery, Pub lunch at the Swan Inn and walk around Falmer,

Ruby described her forthcoming holiday in Wales organised by Sue and Jonathan Ridge for vision impaired people. Costs usually £70 for a week if camping or £179 all inclusive at a hotel. She also mentioned a magazine on tape giving details of day trips. E.g. to London, Eastbourne, Hastings, Brighton

Future activities

Suggestions included:-

Walks organized by Countryside dept

Health walks organized by Brighton and Hove City Council.

Guided tour of Middle Street Synagogue, and Bluebell Railway
– suggested by Colin.
Trevor Arms for Christmas dinner.
Batemans – Home of Rudyard Kipling.
Kipling gardens, Rottingdean.
Day trip to Isle of Wight and Osborne House.
Madame Tussauds, Planetarium,, Greenwich observatory.
Day in Chichester – Pallant House, Cathedral, Bishop's garden.
Anne of Cleves House, Lewes and eat at Southover Grange.
Tower of London.
Brighton Festival and Fringe.
Lewes Festival.
Arundel Festival.
Architecture week in September.
Brighton Morris day of dance (City Synergy is their charity of the
year).
South of England show.
Arun Festival.
Walk at Devil's Dyke.
Fund raising and awareness raising with Theatre group, for
World Sight Day or International Day of Disabled. Meal in the
dark for the sighted.
Day at sea – angling.
Swimming.
Line dancing.
Folk dancing.

A.O.B.

Colin spoke with much appreciation about the friendship and support he had received at City Synergy meetings and activities.

Next AGM 13th Feb 2010.