

Get Together AGM 17/02/2017

Le Tallud

Committee attendance

Beryl Brennan	President
Annette Green	Northern Coordinator
John Buckley	Southern Coordinator
Neil Ritchie	Secretary
Rebecca Sewell	Newsletter Editor
Lesley Ritchie	Assistant Northern Coordinator

Apologies

Eric Hansford	Treasurer
Michele Hansford	Membership Secretary

Members' attendance – see attached list

Apologies for absence

Julie and Jim Hutchison
Chris and Bob Parsons
Noreena and Steve Parker
Margaret and Bob Seager

Minutes of the previous (2016) AGM

The minutes had been available on the GT website for some time and the President proposed that they be therefore taken as read.

Matters arising

None

President's report

Beryl observed that it was hard to believe that a year had now gone by since her election as President. She noted that membership remains healthy, with new arrivals replacing departures, and reflected on another year in which there had been a full catalogue of GT events. The regular programme of monthly walks, reading circles, photography group, book library, lunch club, history group presentations, supplemented by occasional quiz nights, tenpin bowling competitions, garden parties, Chateau tour with wine tasting etc. had all been popular and well supported.

Suggestions of a venue for the next history group outing were invited.

New variations/additions this year included a curry club and craft and family history groups. A bridge club may be the next addition. None of these events would take place without the volunteers who organise and run them and a formal vote of thanks was extended to each of them. Also noteworthy is the establishment of a baby/infant equipment loan service for visiting grandchildren and the fact that its host (step forward uncle Jonathan) is masculine.

The calendar competition had generated an impressive 98 entries and produced a high-quality product which was such a popular Xmas gift that it sold out. Entries for the 2017 edition, theme: Nouvelle Aquitaine were solicited.

The area coordinators had a noteworthy track record of persuasive techniques to recruit walk organisers but it was a matter of regret that efforts to keep the prices of the accompanying meals to around €13 were increasingly being thwarted by some restaurateurs who see catering for a large group as justification for charging a higher price rather than a lower one.

Thanks were also extended, and parting gifts presented, to John Buckley, Annette Green and Rebecca Sewell as retiring committee members and warm welcomes proffered to their replacements, John Chard, Martin Hughes and Jan Howse. Finally, Beryl noted that GT is an association of English-speakers so members were encouraged to invite their non-British friends and neighbours to participate.

Treasurer's Report

The President stood in for the Australia visiting Treasurer. Members received a copy of the audited accounts for 2016 as they arrived and since there were no comments of note to make the accounts were duly adopted. Proposed by David Brennan and seconded by Martin Hughes.

Appointment of auditor.

It is hoped, and anticipated, that Diane Mousdale will agree to continue as auditor but this cannot be confirmed until her cruise ship docks, when she will also receive a token of appreciation for services rendered last year.

Coordinators' reports

John Buckley and Annette Green each named and thanked all the volunteers engaged in organising, reporting on and photographing walks and other events which occurred in their respective territories.

As calendar competition organiser Annette also presented awards to Vinny Galloway for the most artistic photo and to Anthea Libby for judging the entries. Julie Hutchison won the award for most popular photo and had received her award at the previous days' history group meeting.

A formal thankyou was recorded in appreciation of the contribution of Andy Walmsley in maintaining the GT website.

Election of Officers

John Chard was nominated as Southern Co-ordinator. Proposed by John Buckley. Seconded by Maureen Buckley.

Martin Hughes was nominated as Northern Co-ordinator. Proposed by Diane Mousdale. Seconded by Margaret Stubbs.

Jan Howse was nominated as Newsletter Editor. Proposed by Neil Ritchie. Seconded by Lesley Ritchie.

Other posts were not due for re-election this year or incumbents agreed to serve a further year since there were no candidates forthcoming to fill these positions.

The committee for 2017 therefore comprises:

Beryl Brennan	President
Eric Hansford	Treasurer
Michele Hansford	Membership Secretary
Neil Ritchie	Secretary
Martin Hughes	Northern Coordinator
John Chard	Southern Coordinator
Jan Howse	Newsletter Editor
Lesley Ritchie	Assistant Northern Coordinator

Roger Amsden, on behalf of the membership, proposed a vote of thanks to the President and the committee for their contribution to GT.

AOB

There were no other items raised pertinent to the AGM.

Meeting closed: 11.45 am.