



MINUTES OF AGM, 9TH March 2019

Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School, Old Reading Road, Wallingford, OX10 8EN

Present: Sue Edwards, Neil Gillard, Doug Harbour, Judy Spindler, Derik Palmer, Jan Brodie, Lyn Jones, Mike Fenton, Rachel Fenton, Alan Spindler, Catherine Nicholls, Liz Slee, Paul Roberts, Alec Anness, Barbara Parkinson, Wendy Taylor, Rebecca Joice, Paul Frowen, Ruth Dyke, Hellen Edwards, Anthony Mee, Elizabeth Harris.

Apologies: Guy Padfield, Joolz Buggy, Heather Farrell-Roberts, Hilary Davies.

The meeting was opened by Sue Edwards and Neil Gillard in the absence of the President and vice-President.

The minutes of the 2018 AGM, which had been previously circulated, were summarised. They were proposed as a true record by Derik Palmer, seconded by Lyn Jones and accepted by all present.

Members of the committee reported that there are currently 101 members and that there had been a full programme of events during 2018, including a presence at the Lechlade Music Festival. The full programme of events organised for the current year is detailed later in these minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Neil circulated copies of the accounts and reported that UKA remains in a very sound financial situation. Only one event had made a small loss, and although the overall funds had decreased this was largely due to expenditure on publicity material and a new loaner autoharp which were only partially met from current income. There is no need to increase subscriptions or fees for events at present. Sue Edwards proposed that the accounts be adopted, this was seconded by Catherine Nicholls and unanimously passed.

Amendments to the Constitution: These, which have been previously circulated, include changes to the committee – new secretary post, removing the tutor coordinator post – and new statements concerning our equality and privacy policies (the latter to comply with GDPR). Liz proposed that the amended constitution be adopted; this was seconded by Judy and approved by all present.

Officers and Committee Members: Guy is willing to remain as President, Joolz as Vice-president and webmaster, Sue as Communications Coordinator, Doug as Membership Secretary, Jan as Advance Organiser (and to incorporate the Tutor coordinator duties into this role), and Lyn as Loaner Coordinator. Derik is willing to take on the Treasurer's role, and Neil the new Secretary's role. There being no other nominations these appointments were confirmed – Derik proposed and seconded by Neil and Jan, and Neil proposed and seconded by Sue and Lyn.

Four committee members are standing down – Heather Farrell-Roberts (a founder member, who has served for well over half of UKA's existence as President, and/or Tutor Coordinator), Chris Sills (until recently the Loaner Coordinator), Judy Spindler (who has spent 6 years as 'Notes' Editor) and David Coulter (our first committee member from the North of England). Their departure greatly reduces experience levels, and Neil proposed a huge vote of thanks to them for their contributions. Seconded by Sue and passed unanimously.

Four new committee members were elected:

Rees Gallagher - proposed by Jan and seconded by Lyn

Alison Simmons – Sue, Paul

Roy Campbell – Neil, Joolz

Anne Cole – Derik, Liz

The role of Autoharp Notes Editor remains unfilled at the present, and the Committee will need to make suitable arrangements for, at the very least, an annual celebration publication. Judy reported that her reasons

for standing-down include the increasing difficulty that she has experienced in getting sufficient material for each issue, the increasing importance of social media which she did not feel able to deal with, and some negative feedback from one or more members about an inability to read the magazine on small hand-held devices. The meeting felt that it was unreasonable for members to expect that what is actually a magazine to be available in such a format – probably at the detriment of the format for a printed version.

Future Events

Sorefingers Easter School (not a UKA event, but highly recommended) 22nd to 27th April with Karen Mueller and Heather Farrell-Roberts.

Brighton Autoharp Day/Weekend, 7th/8th June, hosted by Derik Palmer. An exciting new venue with a Friday night session.

ScAW (Scottish Autoharp Weekend), 9th-11th August, hosted by Nadine White and Anja Lyttle, with additional masterclasses by Maeve Toner and Mike Fenton, classes with Mike, Heather Farrell-Roberts and Guy Padfield, social playing opportunities and concerts.

Priston Festival – near Bath, 13th-15th September. A local music festival but with Lyn Jones and Mike Fenton in concert, and workshops and taster sessions.

Woodbridge (Suffolk) Autoharp Weekend – 27th-29th September, hosted by Claudia Myatt and Judy Clements. Friday night meeting/session, UKA Day, Sunday music cruise on the Deben.

SFSS October Weekend (not a UKA event) – dates and tutors not yet available.

We would also welcome a UKA presence at other music events. All ideas will be considered, and all offers of involvement welcomed!

There was no **Other Business** and the meeting was closed at 1.25pm.

Grand Draw Results:

1st Wendy Taylor – Gig Bag

2nd Claudia Myatt – Set of Strings

3rd Ann Pearson – Roll of Felt

4th Maggie MacBean – Voice Recorder

5th Julia Clement – Autoharp Cosy