




INDEPENDENCE

ANNUAL REPORT


RickmansworthResidents.org


SPRING 2024

Founded in 1929 for the residents of Batchworth, Mill End, Penn & Rickmansworth Town

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New collateral for Sunday Markets



Wine & Cheese event success



RDRA 100+ Club launched



RDRA at community events

Local issues:

Batchworth Bridge Safety; Conservation Areas;
Cancellation of Ricky Festival.

AGM notice

RDRA 94th Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 17th June 2024, 8pm at the Education Centre, Batchworth Lock

All welcome, although only members can vote. Refreshments will be available after the meeting. Please park in Church Street, Moor Lane or Tesco. The agenda will be:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approve and sign off minutes of the last AGM
3. Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts
4. To Appoint an Honorary Examiner
5. Chairman's Annual Report.
6. Election of President
7. Election of Life Vice Presidents
8. Election of Officers
9. Election of the Association Committee
10. Any Other Business
11. Guest speaker: David Gauke, former MP

Minutes of 93rd Annual General Meeting held on Monday 19th June 2023, 8pm at the Batchworth Educational Centre Rickmansworth

Those present:

The Chairman, Michael Stimpson and 27 members of the Association In the Chair: Brian Morgan, Vice President. Brian introduced himself and opened the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Frank Evans, John Payne, Andrea Fraser, Reena Ranger and Richard Lawman.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 92nd Annual General Meeting held on the 18th July 2022 were discussed and two minor amendments made: the minutes were approved as a true record, proposed by Bob Templeman everyone agreed.

3. Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts

The accounts were presented by the Treasurer, Leslie Chrol-Frołowicz. He highlighted a few of the differences in the figures from the accounts for 2021/22. Firstly, subscription income as at the financial year-end (31st March) was down £300 on the previous year.

Income from Advertisements, both in Independence and in e-newsletters, amounted to £380, a decrease of £135 on the previous year. The Association would be pleased to see a few more advertisers, particularly in our e-newsletters as this augments our income in these difficult financial times.

In the last few months the Association experienced major problems with using PayPal as the Association have been unable to comply with their seemingly ever-changing

requirements for documentation. The result is that the Association had received no payments from that source since 24th March, despite repeated requests for clarification.

With over 100 members having signed up to pay their subscriptions using PayPal, this has been a major headache. Those members have now been asked to use an alternative method of payment; other providers of similar services have been investigated.

Printing costs have remained the same as in the previous financial year. It is planned to change the format of future issues of Independence from A4 to A5-sized pages to reduce costs, with the added benefit of making it easier to deliver magazines through letterboxes.

Total expenditure for the year under review is £650 below the figure for the previous year, which mitigates the effect of reduced receipts of £450.

Therefore, the Association is in the position of having made a small loss year-on-year in 2022/23 of £188, slightly less than in the previous year.

This gives the Association accumulated funds of £7,743 at the start of this financial year and with no liabilities. The minimum balance that the Association needs to function at the end of its financial year is in the region of £2500. Therefore, there is a reasonable margin in reserve, the bank current balance as at today's date being £6468.

The Association is very conscious of the decline in membership since the pandemic, largely because we no longer collect cash payments. We no longer have as many road reps as in previous years, many having retired after many years of faithful service and these are not easily replaced.

There are many current members who have not yet adopted one of the cashless means of paying their membership subscriptions and this is currently being addressed.

Additional sources of funding are presently being investigated, one of which could be the introduction of a monthly raffle, as other local residents' associations have been able to successfully deploy.

A sincere thank-you was given to all the Road Reps for their efforts: they are the cornerstone of the Association's interface with our members. Without them the Association could not function as it did.

He was pleased to report that the Association continues to be a going concern with a viable and sustainable future, although more members are needed on the committee in order to be able to function effectively.

The Association was very sorry to see the current Chairman, Michael Stimpson, stand down from the committee after many years of loyal service. He had unobtrusively taken on so many roles, not least the major job of editing the Annual Report, Independence.

John Samson was given thanks as the Independent Examiner for signing off the accounts at very short notice as the previous Examiner had not been contactable.

John Samson had expressed willingness to continue as Honorary Examiner next year, subject to the approval of the meeting. I therefore now wish to propose that John Samson should be re-elected as the independent Examiner for the Association's accounts for the current financial year. The accounts were accepted and agreed by all.

4. To Appoint an Honorary Examiner

It was proposed by Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz that John Samson should be re-elected as the independent Examiner for the Association's accounts for the current financial year, it was seconded by Mike Stimpson: all were in favour.

5. Chairman's Annual Report.

Michael Stimpson presented his report. He had been Chairman for ten years. The last eighteen months he had not been in good health. He thanked the Committee members both past and present for their hard work over the years and the Army of Road Reps without whom the RDRA would not exist. There have been problems recruiting Road Reps: currently they only have to go round the roads once a year and no longer have to collect subscriptions.

Whilst he has been Chairman of the RDRA we have seen a new Parish Council set up – The Batchworth Community Council.

The current issues that the RDRA have been considering are:

- Lots of discussion as to whether the High Street should remain permanently open to vehicles or closed during business hours – which allows for markets to take place.
- Neighbourhood Plan (Batchworth Community Council) – deadline for responses 21st July.
- District Plan, concern over green belt land being used to build houses on. One area of great concern is the proposal to build houses on Batchworth Golf Course which is green belt land. RDRA currently objecting, awaiting the publication of the next Regulation 18 list.
- Plans to build over Rickmansworth Station.

He echoed the Treasurer's comments that COVID hit the RDRA membership badly; different options to pay membership were introduced but recruiting new members and retaining existing members had still proved difficult.

Decline of the High Street – offices have been converted into flats; drivers can only park for free for one hour in nearby car parks; all these points reduce the foot fall in the High Street and the increase in rents and commercial rates increase the cost of running a business in the High Street with a lower number of clients.

Everyone at the meeting was happy to adopt the Chairman's report. Brian Morgan thanked Mike Stimpson for his service to the RDRA

6. Election of President

Both Peter Crispin and Michael Stimpson were nominated for President. Peter Crispin was proposed by Michael Stimpson and Michael Stimpson by Ash Pattni. A closed vote took place amongst the members, Peter Crispin won the vote and was elected as President.

7. Election of Life Vice Presidents

Michael Stimpson was proposed by Ash Pattni and all agreed.

8. Election of Officers

Mike Stimpson proposed Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz be elected as Treasurer, seconded by Ash Pattni and Chris Evans to be elected as Secretary, seconded by Paula Hiscocks - agreed by all.

9. Election of the Association Committee

Existing Committee members standing for re-appointment to serve until the next AGM: Anne Littlejohn, Ashok Pattni, Bob Templeman, Carolyn Venn, Debbie Wheeler and John Payne. Agreed by all.

Those standing for Committee members proposed by Mike Stimpson and seconded by Ash Pattni: Adie Kitachi, Izzy Collins and Matt Collins – agreed by all.

10. Any Other Business

- A. Ann Johnson of Kings Langley RA spoke on setting up and running a 100 club. The meeting agreed that the Committee should progress this idea.
- B. Sandra Jackson who works for Hertfordshire Constabulary gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Watch.
- C. Cllr Paula Hiscocks updated Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Policy HCC. Money from the Government has been given to District Councils. Three Rivers have put out a consultation document proposing cycle pathways from Maple Cross to Rickmansworth through Mill End and the Cedars estate. Some roads may be blocked off or become cycle pathways. Check the Three Rivers web site.
- D. Concerns over the safety of Batchworth Crossing has been on-going for several years without major progress.
- E. Frances Button delivered County Councilor Reena Ranger's update regarding Rickmansworth : <https://rickmansworthresidents.org/2023/07/93rd-agm-minutes>. Reena Ranger is always contactable on reena.ranger@hertfordshire.gov.uk or 07455 210408. Reena Ranger thanked Mr Stimpson for the warm welcome he gave her when she was elected. He is a wealth of knowledge and she has been grateful for his support. She looked forward to continuing to work with Mr Pattni and wished both Mr Stimpson and Mr Pattni well in the future.

The meeting closed at 21.44.

Chairman's report

What an eventful first year. First, my very sincere thanks to Michael Stimpson for his great stewardship over the last decade under his chairmanship. It's quite an act to follow. Many thanks also to Leslie for his astute control of our treasury over the years and for the guidance and counsel that he's given me over the last year. Many thanks to Anne for managing our membership and for organising and hosting a 'Big Thank you event' for all our dedicated Road Reps. My thanks also go to Debbie for all the hard work and effort that she puts into managing and updating our Website and Social Media Channels. Well done to you. Also many thanks to ALL other committee members for all your support and dedication to the resident's association and helping me find my feet.

Now let's look at our achievements over the last year.

1. We have raised our profile and awareness by attending the BCC organised Markets that take place in our High Street on the last Sunday of the month. We are committed to have our presence at all Sunday markets from March to December 2024. We have also created our Branded Banners and a Feather Flag to identify our presence and help our membership recruitment drive for the RDRA 100+ club.
2. We now have launched our RDRA 100+ club. Recruitment for the RDRA 100+ club is our focus from now on. The success of the RDRA 100+ club will enable us to phase out the £3.00 annual membership and embrace ALL Ricky Residents as our members.
3. Highlight of the last year was the very successful 'Wine and Cheese Tasting Event with Jazz' at the Ricky Golf Club in March. We had 57 paid attendees. This was the first event of its type that we organised in partnership with the BCC. We got a grant of £500 from the BCC for why we are very grateful to and thank the BCC.
4. Our focus for the coming year is to enrol new members to the RDRA 100+ club and to make ALL our communications to the membership digital using our Website and Social Media Channels.

Thank You All for your attendance at our AGM.



Ash Pattni

RDRA Chairman

chairman@rickmansworthresidents.org



Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz

RDRA Treasurer

treasurer@rickmansworthresidents.org

Treasurer's report

Subscription income was down about £200 on the previous year, largely on account of difficulties with PayPal in the Spring of 2023 when three months' worth of subscriptions were not processed by PayPal with effectively no redress.

We had a successful wine & cheese with jazz event which made a useful net profit (£165 to be donated to good causes locally), also the 100+ Club raffle has generated a new source of income. If the latter proves successful, we hope to be able to terminate the need for annual subscriptions within the next couple of years. We are grateful to Batchworth Community Council for their generous grant of £500.

Total receipts were up compared with last year by nearly £2000, although outgoings were up by some £3000, with the result that available funds at year-end (31st March) show a reduction of about £1400. With the decision to discontinue the publication of Independence in future we expect to save in the region of £2000 next year.

**RICKMANSWORTH & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT - YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2024**
BALANCE SHEET

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	6360	7,743
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	6360	7,743

NET ASSETS

Representing:-		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT 31 MARCH	£6,360	£7,743

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR TO 31 MARCH

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions	1498	1696
"Independence" & e-news advertisements	380	380
Grant from Batchworth Coimmunity Council	500	
Wine & Cheese event	957	
100 Club raffle	496	
Raffle prizes donated back	175	
Donations		30
TOTAL RECEIPTS	4006	2,106
Less:-		
PAYMENTS		
Printing Independence	2250	2050
FOMLUC Subscription	10	
Insurance	125	
Licence fee	40	
Printing, postage & stationery	194	
Website expenses	84	108
Venue hire	785	60
Road reps reception	178	
Jazz band hire	450	
Donations	50	25
Raffle prizes	625	
Miscellaneous expenses	598	51
TOTAL PAYMENTS	-5388	(2,294)
NET (PAYMENTS)/RECEIPTS	-1383	(188)
MEMBERS' FUNDS AT 1 APRIL	£7,743	£7,931
MEMBERS' FUNDS AT 31 MARCH	£6,360	£7,743

ASHOK PATTNI Chairman
LESLIE CHROL-FROLOWICZ Treasurer

Notes on the above

1. The Committee is responsible for keeping proper books and records with respect to the Association's activities.
2. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Corrected from printed version

Dated: MAY 2024

RDRA 100+ Club

Congratulations to our prize winners so far!

The RDRA 100+ Club monthly prize draw was launched in November 2023 to support local good causes and to fundraise for RDRA administration costs.

100+ Club membership (includes RDRA membership) is £5 per month or £60 per year and there will be 3 Prize Draws each month.

Half the monies raised goes into the Prize Pot (1st prize is 30% of revenue, 2nd prize is 15% and 3rd prize is 5%), the other half goes towards good causes and fundraising for RDRA administration costs.



Rosi & Andrea with Ash



Ross, Brian & Debbie with Ash



Leslie with Anne & Sanjay

Join us today!

Prize	December '23	January '24	February '24	April '24
1st	Andrea Clark	Ross Macdonald	Anne Littlejohn	Anne Littlejohn
2nd	Rosi Jordon	Brian Littlejohn	Sanjay Pattni	Rosi Jordon
3rd	Anon	Debbie Wheeler	Anon	Anon

Note, there was no draw in March due to 100+ Club not getting enough members to cover costs.



The first local good cause supported by the 100+ Club is £250 towards better signage for the Community Garden & Orchard so you can find them! We also added them to Google maps.

Scan QR code for further details or visit:
RickmansworthResidents.org/100plus