

ROWLAND'S CASTLE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
1ST FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7PM IN THE PARISH HALL

ATTENDEES: Total 46

Committee: Helen Penfold (retiring Chair), Caroline Hadley (incoming Chair), Martha Dombey (Treasurer), June Halford (retiring Vice Chair), Julia Connolly (incoming Secretary), Gordon Charlesworth (retiring Committee member), Amanda Sharpe, Mary Anderson, Sue Morrison (retiring Committee member), Chris Stinton, Alan Evers (President)

Residents: 24 plus 9 via Zoom = 33

Guest speakers: Clare Giles, Peter Morgenroth

1. **Apologies:** Chris Stanley
2. **Minutes of previous AGM minutes:** These were available to read on the RCA website and noticeboard. Approved and signed by the Chair.
3. **Any matters Arising:** None
4. **Chairman's Report:** Helen Penfold's full report attached.

Key points:

- Exciting year ahead for RCA as celebrate 50th anniversary
- Summary of key events all of which were successful
- Resulting in donations to various associations within the village
- Start of a new chapter with a new Chair and committee members, thanking all those who have stepped down for all their hard work
- And a request for new committee members

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Martha Dombey presented

'The opening bank balance at the start of 2021 was £9,377 and the closing balance was £13,818. Most of the increase came from the Fireworks Display which was very well attended.

We published three issues of the Village & Valley magazine during 2021 and the printing costs were covered by advertising revenue.

During the year we made donations to two groups with a total value of £700.

Copies of the independently verified financial statement for the association were available by the entrance door (*attached to these minutes*). If you have any financial questions about the association then I'd be happy to answer them if you approach me during the social part of this evening. Thank you.'

6. Election of officers: Alan Evers officiated but spoke first.

'Welcome to the AGM thank you for coming, It has been difficult for all of us these past 2 years, zoom meetings, some tonight viewing on line now, which presents all organizations, businesses or voluntary with problems of maintaining good communications, so I must thank the RCA committee for all their efforts in maintaining the high standards of the work they have managed during 2021 in keeping things going almost as 'normal'. A sterling effort by all concerned.

Before we move on the Election of the new Officers & Committee members there are more than a few leaving, members & officers, I must thank. Given Covid and previous other circumstances most have, 'over-stayed' in the nicest way their normal allocated time, which has been much appreciated by me and my predecessor, Alan Drinkwater.

A big thank you to Helen Penfold, who has been the Chair since 2018 and had been on the committee prior to then. She guided the RCA through a few difficult moments in that time with energy and tact

All of them have made telling contributions to the work the RCA has continued to do each year, as have all the other committees these past 50 years of the RCA assistance. A very big thank you to this year's retirees for all their hard work and dedication, they will all be missed. They have set a bench mark for the new Committee to live up to and no doubt they will.'

	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair: Caroline Hadley	Helen Penfold	Martha Dombey
Treasurer: Martha Dombey*	June Halford	Mary Anderson

*Martha has agreed to stay as Treasurer

Secretary: Julia Connolly	Amanda Sharpe	Caroline Hadley
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7. Election of Committee:

Chris Stinton	June Halford	Martha Dombey
Amanda Sharpe	Gordon Charlesworth	Julia Connolly
Mary Anderson	June Halford	Amanda Sharpe

All approved.

Alan commented:

'I am sure all of you will be a success in maintain the ethos of the RCA in your various roles, myself and past members will always be available for advice or general information on any topic that may arise in the future. I wish you the best of luck in your endeavours. Thank you'

8. **AOB:** The retirees were all presented with gifts of orchids or garden voucher and champagne in recognition of their service.
Ian Hewitt from the floor spoke on behalf of the residents to recognise the work that the RCA committee does and to thank the retiring committee members for all their hard work. He also wished the new members every success in following in the footsteps of their predecessors.
9. An excellent talk by Clare Giles and Peter Morgenroth on Promoting First Aid Skills. Extremely illuminating and serious cause for thought. Potential action is to organise training sessions in the Parish Hall. As defibrillators have spoken instructions to follow, the training course would provide more confidence.

The meeting ended at 8pm.

Thanks to Caroline Hadley for handling the Zoom link. Thanks to Sue Morrison and Martha Dombey for the refreshments - excellent blinis made by Martha which were enjoyed along with wine.

RCA Chair's Annual Report 2022

Welcome Everyone to the AGM of the Rowlands Castle Association.

How good that we are actually able to be here together and we welcome any residents who are joining us by zoom.

Everyone who lives in the village, or nearby, is part of the association, and we, on the committee are very conscious that the RCA needs to be for everyone.

It's an exciting year for the RCA, as we celebrate our 50th anniversary and we pay tribute to Eugene Billam and his friends who set up the association all that time ago. The RCA looks forward to joining with the rest of the village in celebrating the Queen's Platinum jubilee in June.

The aims of the RCA are

To conserve the character of Rowlands Castle,

To provide a channel of communication on matters of local interest and to enhance the life of the Village.

As the village grows, it is ever more important to remember these core values.

We support the preparation of the neighbourhood plan, under the leadership of Ian Young, which we believe will help to provide some resistance to heavy handed government overruling of local planning.

The RCA runs the village website, Grapevine and the 'Village and Valley' magazine. Our thanks to Kelvin Schafli, who does such a great job as editor of the magazine and our thanks to Mark Dombey who runs the advertising which pays for the costs of printing etc. Mark also manages the RCA website. Thank you, Mark.

Thank you too, to all our magazine deliverers. We really appreciate your help. And to Gordon who has been organising the distribution of the magazine for the last few years.

The Grapevine now reaches more than 900 local residents and is a great help in keeping aware of what is happening in the village. Anyone can sign up, and send a message out on Grapevine, so long as the Grapevine monitors feel that the message is appropriate.

And our annual events

Sadly we had to cancel The May Day Picnic because of Covid, but we did hold the annual quiz in October, by zoom for the second time. We gave the money raised from the quiz to the Rowans Hospice, who we know have been struggling with fund raising during Covid.

The annual fireworks display did go ahead this year. We were blessed with good weather: Selstar put on a brilliant display and Bill Burdett's fairground rides kept the children happy before the fireworks started. Our thanks to the scouts who did an excellent job, providing burgers etc. and hot drinks. We sold nearly all the tickets and make a welcome profit, some of which we are now able to donate to local needful organisations.

Our thanks to all the people who helped to make the fireworks a success and to the volunteers who helped as stewards on Saturday evening and came back on Sunday morning to pick up the litter.

Now that the second exit is in place, it seems hard to believe that only a few years ago, we thought that the Rowlands Castle fireworks might have to stop, after more than forty years. How glad we are that the fireworks can continue for more years to come. And I think we need to remember just how much support Chris Stanley, as leader of the Parish Council, and Councillors Frank Ball and Jon Moss gave the RCA in finding a way forward to meet new health and safety rules which required us to get the second exit made.

The Children's Christmas Party did go ahead, but with less children than usual and with us taking extra care because of Covid.

Our thanks to Emma Barnes, and her sister, Sally Lumley, who did a great job of organising the party and decorating the hall. .

Litter picking

We did manage one litter pick, in June last year, with a good turn out and Flick Drummond, our local MP, coming to join us, which we appreciated. Thank you to June who has been chief litter pick organiser for the last few years, and to all you good folk who came to pick up litter.

Enhancing the environment

Last spring, with Councillor Malcolm Johnson's help, we negotiated a grant of £1,000 from East Hants District Council, to spend on trees and tree guards for Stansted Forest. These trees were delivered in November and have now been planted.

A few of us have made a sub group, together with members of the Garden club, to start a wilding project at the top of the recreation ground, close to where the lime tree was planted last spring, for our previous president, Alan Drinkwater. We have planted two small apple trees which we hope will provide apples for anyone who would like to pick them, and a mixture of woodland shrubs which we think will provide an attractive habitat for wildlife. We plan to gradually plant wildflowers around the shrubs and we hope that this can become, in time, a community project.

RCA Donations

The November Fireworks allowed us to replenish our funds and we are pleased to have been able to give money to local organisations.

We are giving money to:

The Scouts

Castle Youth Football Club for a hardship fund and to help with setting up a girls' team.

The PTA who have an ambitious project to create an outside play area.

St Hubert's who need money for restoring the organ.

St John's to help them with the running of their refuge house.

The Rowans Hospice.

A New Chapter

And now, as we are hopefully emerging from the difficult Covid time, it is time for the RCA to begin a new chapter, with new officers and members of the committee, and a new enthusiasm for doing things in a different way, perhaps better responding to the needs of the village and its residents in a post Covid era.

This is the end of my time as Chair: being Chair of the RCA seems to me to be both a privilege and a responsibility, and I have certainly done my best to lead the committee through a challenging few years. A huge thank you to the rest of the committee - it has been my pleasure to work with you all. My thanks to Councillor Chris Stanley and the rest of the Parish Council and to Lisa Walker, clerk to the Parish Council, who have given me so much support. My thanks to everyone in the village and the valley who support the RCA.

And now we welcome Caroline Hadley who is taking over from me as Chair of the committee. Caroline, I hope that being Chair will be an enjoyable time for you too.

Several other longstanding committee members are also stepping down this evening.

Sue Lennard stepped down a few months ago, after being on the committee for eight years, with six of those years as secretary: a role she did brilliantly. Very many thanks Sue for all the hours that you put into organising the committee and the events, so conscientiously for so long.

Sue Morrison steps down after being on the committee for ten years. Sue has done a great job, being part of the fireworks team for most of those years and also having a key role in organising the annual quiz, and lots else along the way. I think you certainly deserve a rest, Sue.

Gordon Charlesworth has been on the committee for more than five years. Gordon has been organising the delivery of the magazines for the last few years, coordinating the volunteer deliverers and sorting out the magazines. Gordon also sat through many hours of meetings with Councillors Frank Ball, Jon Moss and myself as we tried to find a way forward with the fireworks. Gordon has played a key role in ensuring that the fireworks can continue.

June Halford has been on the committee for four years and has been vice chair for much of that time. June has been a wise and steady support to me, while I've been chair, which I have really appreciated and June has also been chief litter pick organiser, for which we are all grateful.

Evita Bird and Julia Nelson find their work commitments do not allow them to continue on the committee. Thank you Julia and Evita for your contributions.

A huge thank you and tribute to all of you who have put so many hours into making the committee, and what we have done, be a success.

And now it's time to move on and for the RCA to move forward into a new chapter under Caroline's chairmanship.

We always need new members on the committee. Being on the committee is a great way to get to know people and to feel part of village life.

Do speak to any of us, if you would like to join us.

Thank you

Helen Penfold

End of Year Accounts for the Rowlands Castle Association

1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

	Sum of Incoming		Sum of Outgoings	
Donation	£	-	£	700.00
Fireworks	£	10,061.00	£	4,456.84
Magazine	£	3,523.00	£	3,058.98
Quiz	£	365.00	£	-
RCA	£	66.66	£	838.67
Tree Grant	£	1,000.00	£	999.84
Xmas Party 2021	£	23.00	£	543.35
Totals	£	15,038.66	£	10,597.68
Total Receipts	£	15,038.66		
Total Payments			£	10,597.68
Bal @ Bank 31 Dec 2020	£	9,377.33		
Bal @ Bank 31 Dec 2021	£	13,818.31		
Open Cash in Hand	£	165.00		
Close Cash in Hand	£	165.00		
Final Bank Balance	£	13,818.31		

These records have been audited and checked by Mrs Lorraine Moriarty who confirms they are a true and accurate record of the RCA 2021-year accounts.

Signed:



Dated: 9 January 2022

