

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

24th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 6.30PM IN ST JOHNS HALL

ATTENDEES:

Committee: Caroline Hadley (Chair), Martha Dombey (Treasurer), Chris Stinton (Vice Chair), Mary Anderson (Committee member), Amanda Sharpe (Committee member), Alan Eyers (President).

Residents:

1. **Apologies:** Julia Connolly (Secretary)
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:** Caroline Hadley's full report attached.

Key points:

- Slide presentation clarifying the role of the RCA.
- Overview of RCA 2022 events and focusing on networking with other village organisations in the upcoming year.
- Thanks (plus bottle of wine) to Kelvin, Mark and Gordon for their continuing support with IT and magazine publication / delivery.
- Recruitment of more Committee members and volunteers.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Martha Dombey's full financial report attached. Copies of the independently verified financial statement for the association were available by the entrance door. Attendees were given the opportunity to verify any financial queries, '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 Eyers officiated but spoke first. Alan Eyer's full speech attached. Martha Dombey agreed to stay as treasurer. Caroline Hadley agreed to stay as chair for 2023. Chris Stinton agreed to be vice chair with a view to taking over as chair in 2024. Confirmed that Julia Connolly had previously agreed to stay as secretary (unable to attend today). Opportunity given to contest any nominees; No objections made, all appointed.

	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair: Caroline Hadley	Julia Connolly	Martha Dombey
Vice Chair: Chris Stinton	Caroline Hadley	Martha Dombey
Treasurer: Martha Dombey	Mary Anderson	Julia Connolly
Secretary: Julia Connolly	Amanda Sharpe	Caroline Hadley

7. Election of Committee:

Mary Anderson	Amanda Sharpe	Chris Stinton
Amanda Sharpe	Chris Stinton	Mary Anderson
All approved.		

Alan Eyer thanked the RCA committee for all their hard work over the past year especially in view of the small committee numbers (currently 6 but should be 12). He clarified that Michelle Clancey has now stepped down from the RCA committee but is happy to volunteer at future events; thanked her for all her hard work to date and future involvement. He made a 'call to arms' for new committee members and ad hoc volunteers saying that anyone interested should talk to any member of the RCA committee during the social part of the evening for more details.

8. **AOB:** Idsworth Trust Chairman from the floor spoke on behalf of the Idsworth trust to thank the RCA for its continued support and seek permission to distribute leaflets for Idsworth during the social part of meeting which was granted. Magazine distributor Maggie suggested asking people to pay for the RCA magazine; the committee responded that costs of magazine are covered by advertising but anyone can give a donation to the RCA at any time.

The meeting ended at 8pm.

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

CHAIRS SPEECH SUPPORTING THE SLIDE SHOW

Slide 1

This past year has been an opportunity to find out what the village understand when they hear the 3 letters RCA. I myself only had a partial understanding of what the RCA Committee do in a year as I joined the committee during Covid lockdowns and 2022 was the first year where all aspects of the RCA's constitution could be actioned. At the recent Parish Hall User event where a variety of village groups showcased their USPs, it was fascinating to hear the wide range of answers to the question "what do you think the RCA do?" One answer was that we were the parish council, oh no, some answered with some of the events we host Of course those of you who have been in the village for years and been part of the RCA in your time, knew exactly what we do, but many had no idea. So I thought I would style my presentation tonight with the answer to "What do the RCA do?"

Slide 2

The RCA constitution states that we:

Provide a channel of communication on matters of local interest.

Enhance the life in the village

Conserve the character of Rowlands Castle

So what does this mean in reality... well....

Slide 3

We host 4 means of communication

Firstly the grapevine. This is the closed email chain that lets us know about events coming up in the village and surrounding area, and things the lost and the found, you may be able to see from the picture that we had a lost homing pigeon. This communication channel requires prompt and diligent reviewing of every message requested for posting to ensure each message is suitable for this channel of communication and meets the criteria set to ensure we are not all inundated with spam messages. This year Martha and Mare had this duty and between them they screened and posted over 400 messages.

Secondly we have a Facebook page. This has been managed successfully by Martha. Any messages for the village that may not work on the grapevine, for example those that work best with a picture have been posted on Facebook. And the picture shows that we have 2100 followers on this page.

Next we have the RCA website. This has been managed by Mark who is not a committee member and without whom the site would not exist. The website holds a wealth of knowledge of events going on in the village, has links to other groups around the village and pictures from past events, to name a few. It also contains the details of what the RCA do.

Finally the RCA facilitate the village magazine, Village & Valley. Now without the fantastic editor Kelvin this magazine would not exist. Not only does he collate the articles sent for publication, he reviews these articles, ensures the magazine is fabulous to look at and read by providing several of the photos himself. And if that is not enough, He then co-ordinates the printing of the

magazine. Mark co-ordinates the adverts and Gordon coordinates the distribution of the magazine. This is done 3 times a year by these 3. If Kelvin, Mark and Gordon are here this evening I would like to personally thank you and would like you to come up to the front to receive a token of the committee's thanks for your efforts this year.

Slide 4

So moving on to Enhancing life in the village, the RCA hosted 4 events this year. I will go through them in chronological order, we hosted the May day picnic. This year we had a brass band, vintage cars & maypole dancers, and to much merriment of the crowd, dads having a go at maypole dancing. The RCA raised £1000 for the Rowans from the BBQ, charity buckets and RCA funds. The committee worked tirelessly behind the hot BBQs with support from their partners. Partners, thank you.

Next came the quiz night, and what a night it was! We had over 90 quizzers for the evening and I have never been to a quiz night where the room is roaring with laughter at whether a sketch was a kettle or a Henry hoover, or fighting to get to the quizzers table up at the front first to get their answers in within 10 seconds followed by cheers by the teams who got the most popular answer in the room. That evening raised £1000 for the South Coast Ambulance Service which is made up of volunteer first responders. The money raised has helped Rowlands Castle's very own first responder in the village get essential kit for his call outs.

Then came the big event of the year, the Fireworks display. Although the committee pull together for every event I would like to make a special mention to Amanda who ran the event, thank you and what an event it was. Despite the

rain we had just under 2000 people turn up and the rain let off just in time for the 20 minute display. In 2021, The RCA worked with the Horndean Junior Camera Club and Photos taken by the club were then used in this year's advertising. This year we formalised the relationship and arranged a competition for the youngsters with the winning photographs obtaining cash prizes and to be used in next year's tickets and advertising. Here are few of those pictures...

Our final event was new event, a film showing of Disney's Peter Pan. It was the event to mark the 50 years of the RCA. Some of the committee members dressed up in theme, we had a Peter Pan, a pirate and a lost boy. Entrance for Children was free and Adults were charged a nominal £1 with free popcorn and pick a mix and drinks for all. We had around 60 adults and children turn up and the film was greeted with a round of applause at the end.

Slide 5

Conserving the character of Rowlands Castle, the committee held a litter pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean Fortnight and another on the morning after the fireworks display. There were some very surprising items picked up around the village, one volunteer returned to the meeting point carrying a battered wind vane and a random part of a car!

With the profits from the fireworks ticket sales, requests for funds were advertised on grapevine for local causes to reach out and request financial support. This message even made it to the local paper in Petersfield. All those who responded, received the amount they requested. Donations were made to the Scouts for outdoor archery equipment, the PTA for re painting of the St John's School playground, to the friends of the St Hubert's Idlesworth trust for contribution towards major and essential repairs to the church building and

finally to the Heritage Society for an App that will highlight the trails around the local area. There are other requests in the pipe line that are yet to be formally put to the committee where further funds available could be donated to.

Slide 6

Moving on to the future, what are the RCA going to focus on for 2023? Of course, we will be focusing on repeating what we did in 2022, but in addition, The Committee are exploring options to update the existing website so that it is more tactile for its users on PCs and mobile devices.

As you can see we are a small committee, according to the constitution we should be a committee of 12 and we are only 6. WE are looking to collaborate with other groups with in the village on our events such as the Mayday Picnic which is being incorporated with the Coronation this year, and expand our collaboration at the Fireworks night where we currently have the Scouts provide Burgers.

We are looking for more volunteers and committee members so we can continue the great legacy the previous 50 years of committees have built up and enable us to keep the RCA going for another 50 years.

If anyone here is interested in volunteering or being part of the committee or know someone who might be interested, please come and speak to any of the committee members here tonight after the formalities are complete and the wine is flowing.