

THE CRESENTS

OF WIMBLEDON PARK

Minutes of AGM

held on 23 August 2016 at 7:30pm at 17 Crescent Gardens

Present were: Janet Carter, Flavio and Judith Centofanti, Spike and Marion Clarke, Ute & Douglas Dallimer, Beate Eberhardt, Shirley Hatherly, Mary Healey, Robin and Peter Rhind, Tom Riddell, and Bernadette Rutherford.

Apologies were received from Susanna and Aron Thompson.

1. Minutes of previous AGM

The Chairperson (Douglas Dallimer) opened the meeting, asking everybody to peruse last year's minutes. These were then adopted as correct, proposed by Shirley H and seconded by Mary H.

2. Chairperson's Report

Douglas D welcomed everybody present and thanked Tom & Beate for their hospitality. He listed the social events held during the last year, being a toy swap, afternoon tea party, farewell party for Joy Smith, wine tasting, quiz, and the turning on of the Christmas lights. The events had all been successful, and although none of them had been specifically for fund raising, they had in fact all made a small profit. Douglas felt that it may assist future event attendance numbers if a local charity was nominated each time to receive any profits from the event.

Douglas noted that the concert suggested at the last AGM had not taken place – although Ruth Turck had been quite keen as long as there was help from other members, as had Nigel Foster, organising a concert required quite a lot of effort and timing had not suited Ruth's availability. In addition a Family Fun Day in the park had been planned for the summer, for which Aron had organized the necessary permit, but it was cancelled due to the low numbers of families with children wanting to attend. This may have been due to being during the holidays with people away and too many other competing community events.

Douglas commented that a lot of the new neighbours in our area had not participated in events, and we needed to consider how to get them involved. Various ideas were discussed, continued and documented in "Future Events" below.

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3. Presentation of accounts

Copies of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 were circulated, showing a year end balance of £9,528.39 which was down £503 from the previous year. Ute D explained that the reason for that was that although each of the events held had made a small profit, costs such as the annual insurance policy and website charges and some of the Christmas tree light costs were not covered. The treasurer pointed out that although she maintains the books, Tom Riddell then checks these and types them up.

Ute explained that in prior years, The Cresidents had needed to arrange funding for the Christmas Lights on the lampposts in Arthur Road, which cost £2,500 for three years. To fund this the Cresidents had collected contributions from the shops and businesses in Arthur Road, and the Residents Association. However in 2015 Merton Council had not required payment, and so there were no costs for this in the accounts. Douglas explained that the council officers had told him that The Cresidents were the only group in Merton who had been required to pay for the costs of the lights in the past, and so no charge had been made this year.

The accounts were adopted: proposed by Robin R, seconded by Judith C.

4. Election of Committee Members

Douglas invited nominations as committee members, including asking whether current committee members would be happy to continue. There were no new nominations, and each current committee member present confirmed they were willing to continue. Tom stated he was certain that Aron and Susanna would also be willing. Ute commented that she was happy to continue as treasurer, but would like someone else to take on the role of minute secretary. Tom agreed to do this. The following committee members were elected: Douglas Dallimer (chairperson), Ute Dallimer (treasurer), Tom Riddell (minute secretary), Aron and Susanna Thompson, Mary Healey and Beate Eberhardt.

5. Future Events

Douglas noted that events coming up were the tapas evening on 2 September, the wine tasting in November and the Christmas lighting up ceremony. It was agreed that the traditional core events of The Cresidents should continue, being the wine tasting in autumn, a quiz in spring and the Christmas Tree lighting up ceremony, supplemented by other events.

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Various ways of attracting new residents to events, and events which might appeal to residents with young children were discussed. Ideas included: a pantomime for children, toy swap day, music talent quest for children, another attempt at organizing a fun day in the park, use of a standard bright coloured paper for all Cresidents newsletters, and use of a one line “banner” statement of the purpose of The Cresidents on every communication. Members agreed that street parties had been a very successful way of engaging everyone in the past. Other past events which had been successful were New Year’s Eve parties, an Elizabethan dinner, and a ladies’ night out.

6. AOB

Beate E suggested that invitations to The Cresidents events could be extended to the flats above the hall and above the shops in Arthur Road, between Arthur’s Café and the tube station as well as the houses on the corner where the dentists are. This was agreed as a good idea.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm.