

## **FERRING RETIREMENT CLUB**

### **MINUTES OF THE 30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE GLEBELANDS CENTRE, GREYSTOKE ROAD, FERRING BN12 5JL ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 @ 2PM**

#### **Present**

Lilian Holdsworth (President and Chairman for this meeting)

#### **Trustees**

Valerie Simpson (Chair of Ferring Retirement Club)

Bernie Griffin (Secretary)

Betty McCann (Treasurer)

Roger Abbott, Lynda Gould, Yvonne Linzey, Jeannette O'Sullivan, Susan Pratt and Ann Smith

**Trustees nominate:** Jan Garland, Heather Hones and Annie Lambert

#### **Members**

Simon Ash, Rosamund Bailey, Brian Bigwood, Chris Bradley, Sharon Bradley, Jane Bristow, Pamela Chamberlain, William Cooper, Kirstie Davidson, Michael Dwelly, Rosemary Ebers, Lyn Evans, Sheila Fenton, Elizabeth Fry, Margaret Guest, Pamela Harland, Liz Hawkins, Jeffrey Hearse, Ann Holmes, Diana Holmes, Peter Holmes, Betty Ingram, Marion Jones, Brenda King, Catherine Kirkby, Susan Lear, Bob Linzey, Liz Malcolm, Katharine May, Don Nice, Roger Oakley, Gordon Parmenter, Graham Ray, Jill Rhead, Margaret Rice, Mary Rolfe, Brian Rosser, Michael Simpson, Jill Symonds, Katrina Thomas, Brian Vardon, David Wallace, Julie Wallace and Marion Whittington.

#### **Non-members**

Sue Samuel (Friends of Ferring)

Simon Cornish (Ferring Village Hall)

#### **Welcome**

The meeting was opened by Mrs Lilian Holdsworth (President), who welcomed all. The President commented that, although this was the 30<sup>th</sup> AGM, the club had, of course, been in existence for much longer than that, 44 years in fact, having started as a non-charitable social club, before registration as a charity in 1994.

#### **Ordinary Business**

##### **1. Apologies for absence**

**Independent Examiner:** Jane Crathern

**Members:** Judith Aibara, Barbara Black, Linda Carroll, Jane Congdon, Susan Fudge, Michael Jones, Sharon Miller, Jackie Osbourne, Cynthia Palmer, Alan Plummer, Lis Plummer, Beryl Short, Lesley Smith and Christina Willcox

**Non-members:** Chris Jackson and Jacqui Swindells (Glebelands Community Centre) and John Johnson (Friends of Ferring).

##### **2. Declarations of interest**

Bernadette Griffin and Betty McCann both declared an interest in item 13 (donation to Ferring Village Hall) being trustees of that charity.

### **3. Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023 had been displayed in the Club Room all year. The date shown in the heading on the first page incorrectly stated 2022. It was confirmed that this was a simple typo, which had now been corrected. In all other respects, the minutes were a true account of the 2023 AGM and duly signed by the President.

### **4. Matters arising not otherwise covered in the agenda**

None

### **5. Presentation of the Annual Report by the Chair of Ferring Retirement Club, Valerie Simpson**

Valerie Simpson (Chair of Ferring Retirement Club) gave the following verbal report:

*"You have all had an opportunity to read the full text of my final annual report as Chair on pages 7-10 of the AGM booklet. I will just summarise now the main points and indicate to you those individuals named in my report since you may not necessarily be able to put faces to all the names.*

*Bernie Griffin, our Club Secretary, has carried out a prodigious and unprecedented amount of work to guide and support our activities. Betty McCann, our Treasurer, has advised on investment opportunities, maintained our accounts and prepared them for scrutiny by our Independent Examiner, Jane Crathern, who could not be here today. Sue Pratt has served as Vice Chair and taken on a number of my duties to ensure a smooth transition as she stands for election as your new Chair today. With her vast experience in similar roles, she is the ideal candidate. Roger Abbott, our Assistant Treasurer, oversees the management of our funds and undertakes the painstaking duty of counting, collating and banking all monies paid by members every week as well as annual membership fees and ticket sales for events. Membership Secretary, Jeannette O'Sullivan, has set up and maintains our new membership database and weekly registers with the help of Janet Jolley. Jeannette also designed our restyled logo and commissioned the new signage that you see outside our entrance above our outside notice board. Lynda Gould has served as Trustee for four years and contributes to the planning of all our activities. She also acts as Section Leader for both the Tuesday Seated Exercise class and the Terry Clough Choir, organising our concerts three times a year.*

*Standing down today is Ann Smith, who has served as Trustee for nine years, helping behind the scenes at events and acting as one of the hand-deliverers of our Newsletters. Our second loss today is Yvonne Linzey, who joined us 2½ years ago as Membership Secretary, and has also been instrumental in planning our Christmas lunches. Lindsay Taylor resigned as Trustee in January but has continued to run monthly Bingo sessions with Sue and Betty in addition to the multitude of other tasks she undertakes. Bob Linzey resigned as Maintenance Officer at the end of December but continued as Fire Officer until July. Dave Wallace is now Maintenance Officer.*

*I thank all those I have mentioned for the help and support they have given me but I haven't forgotten our section leaders and other helpers, without whom we would not be able to run activities. I have also paid tribute in my report to Barbara Black and Brian Bigwood, who have gone above and beyond what might have been reasonably expected of them.*

*My report celebrates the fact that our membership stood at an all-time high of 266 at our year end on 30 September 2024, despite losses including those members who have sadly passed away. Let us remember*

*with fondness David Chapman, Margaret May, Lyn Cooper, Colin Oliver-Redgate, Vivien Hayes, Kath Heasman, Chris Brownsey-Joyce, Janice Tapper and Pam Cummings.*

*Moving on to financial matters, my report explains in some detail how our reserves have been used and this will be discussed more fully under item 13 of today's Agenda. If you have any questions on this aspect of the annual report, perhaps you would save them until that point, please.*

*Finally, I ended my report by saying what an enormous privilege and pleasure it has been to serve you for the past four years. I have been fortunate in working with a strong team and I am looking forward to watching the Club evolve under the change of leadership. Thank you all for the support you have given me."*

The President thanked Valerie for all her hard work as club Chair over the past four years and for being instrumental in ensuring the continued growth and success of the club.

## **6. Treasurer's Report 2023/24**

Betty McCann (Treasurer) reminded those present that the full text of her Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 September 2024 was set out on page 11 of the Members' AGM Booklet, but wished to give particular thanks at today's meeting to a number of people; to Lindsay Taylor for her generosity in supplying cakes and biscuits for numerous events and for giving lifts to those in need, who might otherwise struggle to attend the club. To Brian Bigwood for his assistance with handover as Treasurer last November. To Roger Abbott, who does a sterling job of counting all the coins, thus making Betty's life much easier. To Jane Crathern for her help and supervision as FRC's independent examiner. Betty also thanked the members of the Finance and General Purposes committee for giving up their time to attend meetings, in addition to trustee meetings. Betty's final thanks went to Valerie Simpson and to the trustees for their commitment and unseen work that ensures the club continues to thrive.

## **7. Accounts 2023/24**

It was noted that the Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024 were set out on page 12 of the Members' AGM Booklet.

## **8. Trustees**

### **Retirements**

The President asked those present to note, with great sadness, the retirement of **Valerie Simpson** as Trustee and Chair of Ferring Retirement Club to take with effect from the end of this meeting. The President said that she would say a little more at the end of the formal business.

The President also reported that, since the last AGM, **Bob Linzey** and **Lindsay Taylor** had stepped down as Trustees, although both have continued to be very involved in the club's activities, for which we are grateful. It was also noted that two further Trustees, **Yvonne Linzey** and **Ann Smith** would be retiring with effect from the end of today's meeting and the President thanked Yvonne and Ann for everything they have done for the club.

Before moving to the trustee elections, the President reminded those present that only members are permitted to vote on any of the resolutions today.

### **Election of Trustees**

Dealing firstly with the officer trustees, the President confirmed that **Susan Pratt** offers herself for re-election today as a Trustee and has also agreed to take on the role of Chair of the club, following Valerie's retirement. It was noted that Sue had been proposed by Bernie Griffin and seconded by Roger Abbott.

**Resolution:** on a show of hands, the President declared that **Susan Pratt** was duly re-elected as Trustee and also as Chair by those present.

The President confirmed that **Bernie Griffin** offers herself for re-election today as Trustee and club Secretary, having been proposed by Valerie Simpson and seconded by Lynda Gould.

**Resolution:** on a show of hands, the President declared that **Bernie Griffin** was duly re-elected as Trustee and Secretary by those present.

The President confirmed that **Betty McCann** offers herself for re-election today as Trustee and Treasurer, having been proposed by Jeannette O'Sullivan and seconded by Roger Abbott.

**Resolution:** on a show of hands, the President declared that **Betty McCann** was duly elected as Trustee and Treasurer by those present.

The President confirmed that the three remaining Trustees, **Roger Abbott, Lynda Gould and Jeannette O'Sullivan** offer themselves for re-election today and that the vote would be taken en bloc.

It was noted that Roger had been proposed by Bernie Griffin and seconded by Sue Pratt; Lynda had been proposed by Betty McCann and seconded by Jeannette O'Sullivan; and Jeannette had been proposed by Lynda Gould and seconded by Betty McCann

**Resolution:** on a show of hands, the President declared that **Roger Abbott, Lynda Gould and Jeannette O'Sullivan** were duly re-elected en bloc as Trustees by those present.

## 9. Election of New Trustees

The President said that she was delighted to report that new trustee nominations had been received from **Jan Garland, Heather Hones and Annie Lambert** and that all three applicants offer themselves for election today. She asked Bernie Griffin to say a few words about each nominee. Bernie reported as follows:

- **Jan Garland** comes with experience as a people manager, with particular skills around motivating and counselling others to achieve their potential. Jan has the energy and enthusiasm to help move the club forwards.
- **Heather Hones** is a former secretary and lecturer in secretarial and admin skills; with such an excellent organisational background, Heather would be a valuable asset to the retirement club.
- **Annie Lambert** has a background in accounts and systems admin for a well-known PLC and has also worked as a lettings agent. Again, all valuable organisational skills.

The President commented that all three ladies have skills that would be a real benefit to the retirement club and she invited the club members to vote en bloc to elect Jan, Heather and Ann as new trustees of the charity.

Proposed by: Lynda Gould

Seconded by: Valerie Simpson

**Resolution:** on a show of hands, the President declared that **Jan Garland, Heather Hones and Annie Lambert** were duly elected en bloc as Trustees by those present.

## 10. Independent Examiner

The President said that she was pleased to report that **Jane Crathern** had agreed to continue as FRC's Independent Examiner for the 2024/25 financial year.

## Special Business

### 11. Amendment to Clause H(1) of the Constitution dated 25 August 1994

The President asked Bernie Griffin to present this item. Bernie reported as follows:

*"Although we are very fortunate to have today re-elected six existing trustees and appointed three new trustees, when the agenda was drawn up, we had not, at that time, received the nominations for the new trustees and, therefore, could only assume that there would be six trustees in post after today. The fact*

*does remain that, since the last AGM, we have lost a total five trustees, including those standing down today, and so we need to be alive to the possibility that our trustee numbers could fall to under eight at any time. To address that and to ensure that our Charity may continue to operate effectively going forward, we are asking the members to vote on a **Special Resolution**, which requires a 75% majority vote in favour, to amend Clause H(1) of the Charity's Constitution dated 25 August 1994 to allow the minimum number of trustees to be five rather than eight."*

There being no questions, the President asked for a proposer and seconder.

Proposed by: Katharine May

Seconded by: Brian Bigwood

**Special Resolution:** on a show of hands and by a majority in excess of 75% of those members present and voting, the President declared that the following special Resolution was duly carried:

**THAT** Clause H(1) of the Charity's Constitution dated 25 August 1994 be amended from:

*"The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than **8** members nor more than 12 members..." To*

*"The Executive Committee (also known as the Trustees) shall consist of not less than **5** members nor more than 12 members..."*

## **12. Proposal for Ferring Retirement Club to incorporate as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and to dissolve the existing FRC charity under registered charity number 1040624**

The President asked Bernie Griffin to present this item. Bernie reported as follows:

*"As stated on the agenda, this is an important constitutional matter as the proposal would involve Ferring Retirement Club applying to the Charity Commission to incorporate as a CIO and, if successful, the consequential dissolution of our current charity under charity number 1040624. This requires a Special Resolution, which means that it can only be passed if at least 75% of members attending and voting vote in favour. The full text of the six part resolution is set out in the agenda and on page 15 of the Members' AGM Booklet. I do hope that everyone has taken the opportunity to read the explanatory Circular on pages 13 to 16 of the AGM Booklet, but let me take you through the key points of the proposal:*

- As a CIO, the retirement club would be covered by the legal structure specifically designed for CIO charities, which came into effect in 2013. I believe that most charities created since then, including Glebelands Community Centre, are set up as CIOs, and indeed many unincorporated charities have taken up the option to convert to CIO status.*
- Currently the club is an unincorporated organisation, which means that it does not have a separate legal identity. Accordingly, individual trustees have to sign any club contracts in a personal capacity. A very live example of this is the new club room lease. Unless the retirement club incorporates as a CIO, three trustees would have to sign and become the legal parties to the lease personally. This is not an acceptable position for any trustee.*
- There is also a practical advantage in not placing personal liability on individual trustees, as the CIO would always retain contractual responsibility regardless of any change of trustees. Again, taking the new club room lease as an example, if this were to be signed by three trustees, there is an argument that an assignment of the lease would be required each time one of the trustees ceased to be a trustee.*
- The benefit of limited liability for CIOs covers not only contractual obligations, but also other kinds of liabilities (e.g. personal injury claims connected with the charity's premises). Although such claims might be covered by insurance, there is a risk that the trustees of an unincorporated charity could be potentially personally liable for the actions of the charity in relation to these kinds of claims.*
- Incorporation as a CIO would also make the retirement club a more attractive proposition for future trustees, simply because of the benefit of limited liability that a CIO would offer.*

*A few final points:*

- The charity name would remain the same, although this would be under a new charity number;*

- *The aim of the charity would remain the same; and*
- *Members would still have the right to attend annual general meetings and to elect the trustees.”*

Questions:

Brian Bigwood asked about the time it would take to complete the incorporation process. Bernie replied that, having no experience of the process, it would not be possible to put a definitive timeframe on it, but she hoped that it could be completed in the current financial year. The CIO process for a completely new charity would be more straightforward but, in addition to going through the conversion process, FRC would also need to transfer assets, so this could extend the timeframe.

Brian also asked about the new CIO constitution; would this reflect the existing Constitution and would members get a chance to see it? Bernie advised that, since November 2023, the Charity Commission requires CIOs to use a model form of constitution. There is, however, scope to include relevant provisions from the existing Constitution. The existing Constitution is, of course, in a very simple outdated form so CIO incorporation provides an opportunity to have an up to date set of rules. Bernie advised that she had made a start on the draft new CIO constitution and would be happy to put this up on the website when in the final form for submission with the CIO registration application to the Charity Commission.

There being no further questions, the President asked for a proposer and seconder.

Proposed by: Brian Bigwood

Seconded by: Simon Ash

**Special Resolution:** on a show of hands and by a majority in excess of 75% of those members present and voting, the President declared that the following special Resolution was duly carried:

THAT in furtherance of the proposal for Ferring Retirement Club to incorporate as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and to dissolve the existing FRC charity under registered charity number 1040624 the members hereby resolve as follows:

- i. To incorporate a new CIO entity (retaining the current FRC charity name), subject to a successful application for registration with the Charity Commission
- ii. To authorise the trustees to adopt the Constitution for the new CIO using the appropriate Charity Commission model constitution wording
- iii. To approve those persons in place as trustees at the time of adoption of the Constitution of the new CIO as the first trustees of the new CIO
- iv. That upon registration by the Charity Commission of the new CIO, to authorise the trustees, as soon as reasonably practicable, to take all steps and actions necessary to effect the transfer of the assets and liabilities of the existing FRC charity under registered charity number 1040624 to the new CIO
- v. To authorise the trustees to prepare final accounts for the existing FRC charity under registered charity number 1040624 showing a nil balance account for filing with the Charity Commission
- vi. To authorise the trustees (at such time as the trustees shall deem appropriate) to dissolve the existing FRC charity under registered charity number 1040624 and to apply to the Charity Commission for it to be removed from the Register of Charities.

### **13. Donation to Ferring Village Hall**

The President handed over to Valerie Simpson to present this item. Valerie reported as follows:

*“You have all had an opportunity to read the letter presented to trustees on 10 October 2024 and signed by ten members requesting a special meeting. The members’ letter and the trustees’ response to each of the points made in the letter are set out on pages 17-19 of your AGM Booklet. Under the terms of our*

*Constitution, we are obliged to call a special meeting if requested by at least ten members but, since the papers for today's AGM were about to go to print, it made sense to include the matter on today's agenda.*

*Before throwing the matter open to the floor for questions, I think it would be helpful to highlight some important key points regarding the club's operational and financial decisions. First and foremost, all such decisions are made by the trustees. That is central to the role and function of the trustees and the reason why you, the members, appoint us.*

*It was unfortunate that confidential matters discussed in trustee meetings had entered the public domain some two months ago and were being discussed by members who were not in possession of the full and accurate facts – facts that would have been, and indeed have been, presented to the full membership under the AGM process.*

*The second point I would like to make centres on our reserves. In 2019, the club was very fortunate to be the recipient of two legacies and, as a direct result, the club holds significant reserves in addition to expendable funds held in a current account for the day-to-day running of the club.*

*Under Charity Commission guidelines, charities are expected to use their funds to further their charitable purposes and, each year, our financial decisions and the rationale for them are reported to the Charity Commission. Throughout the years 2019-2023, we reported that we were maintaining our reserves to support the activities we run and to provide a safety net to cover the potential cost of securing our continued occupation of our clubroom.*

*Now, in 2024, we are delighted that the future of the Glebelands Community Centre is more assured, having been established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a new board of trustees. Furthermore, we have agreed terms for a new clubroom lease to take us through to the end of 2036, so previous uncertainties have been largely allayed.*

*For these reasons, the trustees felt the time was right to use part of our reserves for the benefit not only of our own members but also for the elderly of Ferring in general. We were pleased to be in a position to begin, before the end of our financial year 2023-24, what we hoped would become a regular programme of donations to other charities whose objects align with our own.*

*Since sending out the pack for today's AGM, we have received further questions from members and, although each has received a written response, I would like to share some of their concerns with you.*

- 1. A comment has been made that our choice of Ferring Village Hall as a donee might not be appropriate since that charity offers activities for everyone, not just for the retired and elderly. This is, of course, correct but the same argument applies equally well to the Glebelands Centre – another potential donee on our list. Both are centres at which activities are enjoyed by all ages but this should not preclude their inclusion in our list of potential donees. Our charitable objects, as stated in our Constitution, are 'the relief of the elderly in any manner now or hereafter deemed charitable within Ferring and the surrounding area'. This wording does not suggest, explicitly or implicitly, that facilities offering services to people of all ages (including the elderly) fail to meet the necessary criteria. In fact, there are many of our club members and other older residents of Ferring, some here today, who regularly enjoy activities and events at the village hall – the film club, FADS productions, bridge and chess groups, gardening club, history group talks, art, dancing, U3A meetings, and the many markets and social events hosted throughout the year. For this reason, the trustees believe that the village hall meets the necessary criteria. By similar reasoning, we included the Glebelands Centre amongst our potential donees, even though that facility too is available for hire by any age group and is a regular venue for children's and adults' parties, steel band practice, auctions, craft fairs, embroidery group, beekeepers' meetings, and Pilates, Tai Chi and Barre classes.*

2. *It has been suggested that we should set a cap of, say, £500, on future donations. However, this may not be in the best interests of all concerned. For example, if we should become aware that a charity had an urgent need for financial assistance, it could be that the relatively small sum to which we had limited ourselves would be insufficient to assist in any meaningful way. We believe that, as your elected trustees, we should have the scope to direct donations as we see fit, always being mindful of our own financial situation at any given time."*

#### Questions and comments

There were a number of questions and comments from the floor, which are summarised as follows:

- It was recognised that some members did not agree that a donation should have been made to Ferring Village Hall at all, while others felt that the donation sum was too high.
- Brian Bigwood confirmed that he had been asked to act as spokesman by a number of members. He referred to the letter signed by ten members, and made the point that the signatories included ex-trustees, volunteers and section leaders. On their behalf, he expressed their disappointment in not being advised about the donation. Valerie Simpson reminded those present that this point, and the other points raised in the members' letter, had been responded to as set out in the Members AGM Booklet. Valerie clarified that the Trustees are not required to consult with members on financial and operational matters and that members do, in fact, appoint the trustees to undertake the decision making processes on such matters.
- Brian Bigwood commented that a donation of any amount, and particularly such a substantial amount, was unprecedented in the club's history. Valerie replied that the significant legacy received by the club was also unprecedented and that, having retained our reserves for four years, for justifiable reasons that had been notified to the Charity Commission, the Trustees took the view that continuing this same level of retention could not be justified, now that most of the previous uncertainties had been largely allayed.
- Valerie reminded the meeting that the donation sum of £30,000 was almost equal to the interest earned on the Flagstone investments and that there had, in fact, been no reduction in the principal reserves sum. Valerie thanked Brian Bigwood for being instrumental in setting up the Flagstone investments.
- Brian Bigwood commented that the new club room lease had not yet been signed so anything could happen. Valerie confirmed that the new lease was in a final agreed form. Bernie advised that there are no outstanding issues, other than the change of party, and the new lease would be completed as soon as the new FRC CIO is registered.
- Brain Bigwood asked why a motion to limit the amount of future donations could not have been put to the members at today's AGM. Bernie Griffin explained that the Constitution does not include a provision that would permit this and, in any event, would circumvent the accepted process whereby policy is set by the Trustees. Bernie also clarified that, under the Constitution, members vote on three key areas only - election of trustees; amendments to the Constitution and dissolution of the charity.
- Liz Malcolm commented that FRC is not a grant giving organisation and that guidelines need to be approved or put to the members. Valerie replied that, since the members present had just elected their trustees, whose key role is to decide on financial matters, they should trust them to act on their behalf. If anyone wishes to be involved in the club's decision making processes, they could put themselves forward as a trustee, and would be welcome.



- Questions were asked about the information the Trustees took into account, including financial information, in deciding to donate to Ferring Village Hall rather than one of the other identified charities. Bernie commented that Ferring Village Hall came to the forefront because of its call for the wall appeal and that initially the Trustees did consider donating to the wall appeal. However, after careful deliberation, it was agreed that this would not be appropriate, but an unrestricted general donation would instead be consistent with FRC's charitable aims. It was also considered fitting to make the donation in 2024 being the village hall's 100 year centenary. Simon Cornish (Chairman of Ferring Village Hall) was permitted to speak and said that a donation from the retirement club had not been sought by the village hall.
- Graham Ray commented that a donation "closer to home" would have been more appropriate particularly as the Glebelands Centre had suffered a bad leak and the roof was in disrepair. Valerie agreed that the state and condition of the Glebelands building was a relevant matter for FRC and confirmed that the Glebelands Community Centre was, indeed, one of the charities that had been identified as a future donee. The cost of works was not known and so a suitable donation sum could not yet be considered. Simon Ash confirmed that Glebelands were having some difficulty in getting builders to attend to provide quotes.
- Lindsay Taylor commented that she would like the Trustees to consider using some of the reserves to purchase a minibus and to employ a club manager, which would allow the club room to be open at weekends for the benefit of the members. Valerie advised that the question of a minibus had been looked at previously but not pursued due to a number of practical issues. Bernie commented that, as FRC currently has no legal identity, due to its status as an unincorporated entity, the trustees would have to purchase or lease a minibus and take out insurance in their personal capacity. However, it was agreed that the two requests made by Lindsay would be put on the agenda for the next Trustees' meeting in January.

#### **14. Any other business**

##### **Commemorative Plaque – tribute to Lilian Holdsworth**

Valerie Simpson commented as follows:

*"To end on a positive note, I would like to draw your attention to the Foundation Stone in the wall outside the club entrance, which we have recently had cleaned and restored. It reads:*

**WORTHING AREA GUILD  
FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES  
STONE LAID BY  
LILIAN PHILLIPS JP  
FOUNDER CHAIRMAN OF  
THE FERRING DAY CENTRE  
29.10.87.**

*Lilian Phillips is better known to us as Lilian Holdsworth, our President, without whose untiring efforts we would not be assembled here today. The club was her brainchild and, whilst it may have changed its name over the years, Lilian will long be remembered as its founder. The older residents of Ferring have, no doubt, led fuller lives, thanks to the activities the club has provided for them and Lilian must have gained great satisfaction from seeing her ideas come to fruition – an achievement of which she should be justly proud. Please be upstanding to show your appreciation to Lilian"*

Flowers were presented to Lilian Holdsworth.

**Presentations**

Valerie Simpson paid tribute to Lindsay Taylor, who had retired as a Trustee in January 2024, and to Ann Smith and Yvonne Linzey, who stood down as Trustees at today's meeting. Flowers were presented to the three ladies.

**President's Closing Remarks and tribute to Valerie Simpson**

The President spoke of her pride in founding the club all those years ago and watching it grow and thrive. The President paid tribute to Valerie for everything she has done for the club over the past four years; ensuring that the club remains a place where the members can come to meet or take part in activities.

Bernie Griffin commented that Valerie would be a hard act to follow and was an inspiration to us all.

A gift and flowers were presented by the President to Valerie.

**A final word from the new Chair, Sue Pratt**

Sue commented that the Trustees give a great deal of their time to ensure that the club and its activities are there for the members to enjoy, and would like to see that this continues. Sue said that she hoped matters would now move forwards on a more positive note.

Date of next meeting: TBC

The meeting closed at 3.40pm

**Chair:**

**DATE:**