

VER POETS
AGM
held at St Michael's Parish Centre
on 20th September 2019
(8.30p.m)

MINUTES

Chair: Terry Jones
Present: Gillian Knibbs, John Mole, Greg Smith, Brian Young, Sylvia Banham,
Daphne Schiller, Anna Avebury, Lesley Lilley, Julian Bishop, Juliet Troy
Apologies: Imogen De Le Bere, Derek Coe

1.	<p>Chair's Welcome</p> <p>Currently the committee consists of GK and GS now doing the bulk of the work. Other people who help – JB on Twitter and e-letter, KM as newsletter editor (TJ commented on the work GK does as desk top publisher) GS looks after workshops, treasurer, website. Other one offs BM Pudding Stop, AA administered summer comp, CD artwork, BY workshops.</p> <p>Ver has to turn down requests because of restraints of time and energy. Fewer people were attending programme events which were kept cost neutral by using our own resources.</p> <p>Requested extra help had not been forthcoming. TJ would be moving away early October 2019. He has committed to continuing the work he is doing now for Ver Poets until next Summer 2020. Therefore the Chair's role will be vacant at that point. The committee needed other extra people to help with workload and offer new perspectives.</p> <p>JM – commented that younger members would be welcome</p> <p>GK commented on having less energy and fewer ideas and that someone new to look at the competition would be valuable.</p> <p>There was not the capacity to do as much nor to put on events. It is questionable whether it will be possible to continue to run the Friday evening programme.</p> <p>JM - what proportion of the membership was local? <i>About 25%</i> SB – do you advertise? Eg library/ university? <i>We do. We are in touch with the library. We have written to Universities and never had response. There was contact for a while with a student group from UH but students move on.</i></p> <p>JT – would another venue help? <i>This has been explored. The Town Hall is very expensive. We have spent time looking at other possibilities.</i> TJ suggested that membership may begin to drop. Other options like Online communities were open to people and perhaps a society of this kind was less needed. JM commented that there was still a value in face to face groups.</p>
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	<p>JM was copy editor for St Michael's parish mag where there was an opportunity to advertise.</p> <p>TJ commented that the library event had been successful attracting a new and younger audience. However there were no toilet facilities and the Library was not prepared to staff the meetings.</p> <p>JB commented that there had been a shift perhaps away from the programme style way of working. Things were changing in an organic way and there were very good things happening.</p>
2.	<p>Matters Arising None.</p>
3	<p>Membership Secretary's Report – Greg Smith</p> <p>Currently 86 members paid up. New people join through Open – 8 this year which was typical.</p> <p>103 maximum membership during the year which is stable.</p>
4	<p>Treasurer's Report –Greg Smith</p> <p>Profit £925. Spent less money than last year. Admin/prog/publicity amounts to most of the difference.</p> <p>Fewer leaflets produced for Open. Postage is greatest expense. No impact on number of entries.</p> <p>Suggestions for spending cash included recruitment of members and an anthology. It was noted that the production of an anthology was a huge amount of work and there was not sufficient manpower.</p> <p>Balance £8,804.95</p> <p>There were no plans to increase subs</p>
5	<p>Competition Secretary's Report- Gillian Knibbs</p> <p>Herts Domestic Violence Helpline was suggested as this year's recipient for the charity cheque. LL to send contact details.</p>
6	<p>Day Workshops Report</p> <p>These continued successfully. 4 to 10 people attend each session. An innovation to focus on and discuss a poet had been well received. More hosts were needed.</p>
10	<p>Any proposal submitted by members None</p>

11	<p>Election of Officers and Committee Members</p> <p>The following were duly elected:</p> <p>Chair – Terry Jones Membership Secretary – Terry Jones Treasurer – Greg Smith Competitions Secretary – Gillian Knibbs Programme Coordinator – Vacant Publicity Officer – Vacant Committee members – Juliet Troy, Julian Bishop</p> <p>AA proposed a vote of thanks to the committee. Seconded by John Mole.</p>
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>TJ asked for Christmas poems for Radio Verulam broadcast.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.44pm</p>