

“Back to the Future” VARB AGM

Thursday 25 November 2021, 2pm – 3pm
Hybrid event on Zoom or at Merland Rise Church, Tadworth

2.00 pm	Welcome – by Alisdair Semple, VARB Chair of Trustees
2.02 pm	Formal AGM Business 1. Minutes of 2020 VARB AGM – for approval 2. 2020/21 Annual Report & Accounts – for info 3. Election of Directors (Trustees) 4. Any Other Business
2.10 pm	“Back to the Future”
3.00 pm	Online event finishes
3.00 – 4.00	Afternoon tea at Merland Rise Church

1. DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Voluntary Action Reigate & Banstead (VARB) Ltd held via Zoom on Thursday 3 December 2020

Present:

VARB Trustees:

Alisdair Semple, Ceri Williams, Stuart Matthew, Tuke Sonaike, Jonathan Essex, Anne Cotterell, Arthur Browne.

VARB Staff and Volunteers

Lisa Irwin, John Poulter, volunteer, Caroline Foxtan, Nina Porter.

Members and Speakers:

Rosemary Absalom, Mayor of Reigate & Banstead,
 Shahid Azeem, High Sheriff of Surrey
 Louise Miller, Gatton Trust,
 Stuart Matthew, Rescue Remedies/VARB
 Tuke Sonaike, SMEF/VARB
 Jonathan Essex, Furnistore/VARB
 Shirley Soer, Samaritans East Surrey,
 Lisa Tye, Abbeyfield Reigate,
 Clare Mittelstadt, RBBC

Rosie Mercado, St Catherine's Hospice,
 Judith Brooks, YMCA East Surrey,
 Andrew Cunnington, St Matthews, Redhill,
 Justine Chatfield, RBBC,
 Lizzi Webb, RBBC,
 Arthur Browne, Horley U3A,
 Lisa Kelly, Home Start East Surrey,
 Lesley Bailey, Girl Guiding Surrey East,
 Anna Bruin, Surrey Heartlands CCG,
 Hazel Drye, Queen Elizabeth Foundation,
 Jennifer Cooper, Merstham Community Facility Trust,
 Andrea Dunhill, Citizens Advice Reigate & Banstead,
 Graham Whitney, Skylark,
 Saba Hussain, Surrey County Council,
 Viv Hawes, St Mary's Reigate,
 Alix Lewer, include.org,
 Sandy Featherstonhaugh, Age Concern MRR,
 Sarah Pattenden, Brigitte Trust,
 Lynne Skinner, Young Enterprise,
 Nicola Dawes, Stripey Stork.

Item	Detail	Action
1.0 1.1	Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Jenny Merritt, Age UK Surrey, Cllr Rich Michalowski, RBBC, County Cllr Barbara Thomson.	
2.0 2.1	Draft Minutes of previous AGM (25th September 2019) Approval of these was proposed by Stuart Matthew and seconded by Anne Cotterell and there were no objections.	
3.0 3.1 4.0 4.1 5.0	Election of Directors (Trustees) This year Arthur Browne and Lily Valent stood down as Directors. Arthur put himself forward for re-election and was proposed by Stuart Matthew and seconded by Anne Cotterell. Lily is stepping down and moving to pastures new and thanks were recorded to her for her valuable contribution to VARB. Thanks The Chairman recorded his thanks to all VARB staff and volunteers for all their hard work during the year. He also made a plea for new Trustees to join the team. Any Other Business None	

2. 2020/21 Annual Report & Accounts – [available separately here](#)

3. Election of Directors (Trustees)

The following trustees were co-opted by the board in Summer 2021 and are therefore standing for election:

- a) Kathleen Chapman
- b) Joanna Roberts
- c) Kanika Sachdeva

The following trustees have reached the end of their 3 year term and are seeking re-election to the board:

- d) Stuart Matthew
- e) Alisdair Semple

Anne Cotterell and Tuke Sonaike are not seeking re-election.

Trustee Statements:

a) Kathleen Chapman

I started my career in the voluntary sector many years ago as a veterinary nurse with the PDSA and the RSPCA. Though I loved being a clinician, I found working with people immensely rewarding. Since then I've had a diverse career leading homelessness provision for ex-offenders and young people, heading up large animal welfare hospitals and the volunteer department for a children's charity. Since taking a career break in 2018, I have completed a business degree and carried on with post graduate studies in strategy, leadership and change at the university of Bristol. I have a particular interest in organisational change and inclusion in the voluntary sector. In addition, I have been volunteering, putting my professional skills to use. I am now returning to work designing and building mental health and well-being programmes for farming communities across the UK. This diverse experience has given me a wide range of skills. Including: strategy and business planning development and implementation, meeting regulatory requirements, governance, securing grant and trust funding, people management and change and transformation leadership to name a few.

I am a true champion of the voluntary sector, and I have seen the resoundingly positive impact people can make on the lives of others. I am cognizant that all of the services and programmes I have led would not have been possible without volunteers. VARB is of tremendous importance in the community - linking people and places together to bring about social impact. I would love the opportunity to support.

b) Joanna Roberts

I am a Senior Product Manager at Newmarket Holidays, as well as a member of the Senior Management team. I graduated from Bournemouth University in 2001 with a 2i BA(Hons) in Tourism Studies and have led and worked in Product Management roles in the travel industry ever since, from specialist, privately owned tour operators

to large blue chip companies such as British Airways and Thomas Cook. People Management and Project Management experience complements my skills in product development, contracting/negotiating, operational delivery and training.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, I found myself, like many others, joining the voluntary sector for the first time, volunteering at Holmhurst Medical Centre and Woodhatch Place vaccination clinics, and the Harlequin Theatre COVID-19 test centre. Having found the experience immensely rewarding, I decided to pursue a vacancy for VARB Trustee.

I am hard-working and driven, as well as compassionate and collaborative, working closely with international teams and partners, and accustomed to working at all levels of organisational seniority.

In my spare time I enjoy keeping fit and active. I love to travel, naturally, and am keen on photography, as well as practising yoga, walking, running, kayaking and cycling. I am married and have lived in Reigate since 2016.

c) Kanika Sachdeva

I was born and brought up in India. I have a Master's degree in Business Administration and Black Belt in Taekwondo. Since I came to the UK in 2013, I moved around a lot across the country because of business interests, moved to Reigate in 2018 and decided to settle down here & made this Borough our home by starting a family last year.

I always tried to do my bit by connecting with the community by helping and supporting different charities as a volunteer and decided to stand as a Borough Councillor to make a real difference in 2019. I currently represent Redhill West and Wray Common as a Borough Councillor and an Executive Member for Leisure and Culture on the Council.

Being a sports person, I tried and connected with organisations to help individuals achieve good health and a healthy mind through dance, fitness and Yoga.

d) Stuart Matthew

Stuart is married with 2 grown up children and has lived in Reigate for 24 years. He retired in 2014 from a busy career and has been a Trustee of VARB since then taking on the role of Secretary and more recently Vice Chairperson. Stuart has many leisure interests including walking rescue dogs 4 days a week.

In addition to his role as Secretary Stuart takes an active role in VARB and has completed a number of assignments in the last 3 years including managing the selection of an internet-based phone system. In his role as vice chairperson he provides on-going support for the Chairperson and the operational staff and management.

Stuart has a wealth of private sector experience:

- IT Delivery and Project Management
- Software House Line Management
- Business Process Reengineering

- HR IT systems
- Company Directorship
- Working for large multi-national companies across a variety of sectors
- Working in other countries and different cultures
- Mentoring, training and coaching

As well as experience of Volunteering:

- Mentoring secondary school children
- VARB Trustee
- Trustee of the dog rescue for 2 years
- Completing new dog walker inductions
- Walking rescue dogs
- Web site administration for dog rescue

Stuart has a passion for volunteering and a hands-on approach.

e) Alisdair Semple

Alisdair has served a total of six years as VARB trustee, with the last three and a half years as Chair.

He has been resident in the borough for 28 years, seen his 4 children grow up in the area and been active as a local church leader for most of that time. He has served as a volunteer Police Chaplain with Surrey Police, and now works across several hospitals as an NHS Chaplain.

His passion is to help encourage and build a more inclusive and effective voluntary sector, which promotes corporate volunteering and expands opportunities for younger people to discover the joys, challenges and practical benefits of volunteering.

Alisdair is married to Kath, lives in Redhill and is planning for an increasingly active retirement!

4. Any other business