



Summary of Annual General Meeting of ABA

Wednesday, 7th May 2014

Aldeburgh Yacht Club

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Attendees:

Naomi Tarry: Chair & Best of Suffolk
Rob Mabey: Vice Chair & Regatta Restaurant
Alex Tarry: Marketing Committee & Best of Suffolk
Charlie Hill: Secretary & CL Associates
Annette Mason-Gordon: HCMTI
Sarah Whitelock: ABA representative on HCMTI board & Green Apple Communications
David Keates – Aldeburgh Yacht Club
James Green – WentworthHotel
Peter Osbourne – Brudenell and White Lion
James Stacey – O & C Butcher
Matthew Piercy – Best Estates
Paul Rosher – Barnes Rosher Office Supplies & RNLI
Mark Fairweather – Treasurer of the Association, Fairweather Stephenson
Sara Fox – Aldeburgh Market & The Lighthouse
Peter Cox – ATC
Derek Cook – Life Member & Saxmundham Rotary Club
Simon Ives – Aldeburgh Carnival
Helen Barker - Sandlings
Harry Barclay - Avocet
Caroline Wiseman – Aldeburgh Contemporary Art
Richard Keane – Keane's Solicitors
Lynne Walker – Aldeburgh Town Plan & Library
Jill Douglass – Alde Valley School
Graeme Bloomfield – Fielden Ltd

Apologies:

Liz Biagioni: Pilates Positive
Tim Watkins: Magnox
Hilary Lightfoot: Vintage Angels
Peter Hallum
Mary & John James: Aldeburgh Bookshop
Richard Lawson and Claire Bruce-Clayton: Lawsons Delicatessen
Mike Kiff; Aldeburgh Town Councillor
Oli Mummery: Suffolk Secrets
Grahame Tinnion: TA Hotel Collection

Naomi Tarry welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Aldeburgh Yacht Club for their hospitality. **David Keates**, on behalf of the Yacht Club, welcomed guests to the Club. Programme for refurbishment and aim to have a resident instructor next year and hope we can open the club to townsfolk out of the high season.

Address from the Chair

Naomi confirmed that she is standing down after 3 years being Chair and previously a year as Vice Chair and highlighted some of the achievements:

- Anglia Water, managing the project and significantly reducing the impact to businesses in town
- Campaigned against Tesco, although unsuccessful it brought many businesses closer together
- Supporting Christmas lights
- Introduced Independents Days and master classes
- Supported events in the town such as Battle of the Chefs, Proms by the Sea
- Membership has doubled
- Improved links with other organisations in the town such as the Town Council
- Raised substantial funds for charities and good causes
- Instrumental in the inception and success of Heritage Coast Market Towns Initiative (HCMTI)
- Launched highly successful Aldeburgh supplements in EADT
- Work closely with education providers, including apprenticeships to deliver the Careers Fair, apprenticeships and work experience.
- Started regular e-newsletters to keep members informed of activities and opportunities
- Launched a new website
- Started promoting the ABA through social media and now have over 1000 followers on Twitter

Naomi thanked all the members for their support and time, particularly the Committee who have worked with her to achieve all these successes. Other Business Associations in the region now see the ABA as a beacon and want to emulate the success.

Treasurer's Report – Mark Fairweather

Expressed gratitude to Naomi for her wonderful leadership which has been inspirational and transformed the association.

Maintain 2 accounts which are showing a healthy growth from £9,000 to £14,000 and from £7,000 to £8,000.

There is, however a note of anxiety in that we're significantly dependant upon the Co-Op, have given £3,750 per annum. Believe that the East of England Co-Op is independent to the Co-Operative group. £2,000 was also received in this financial year as part of the successful application by HCMTI for the Mary Portas Town Team funding.

Election of Officers/Committee members

Rob Mabey, Vice Chair, agreed to step into the chair and Naomi stressed that the role is more of leadership and motivation than to do everything so a strong committee is key to the success of the Association.

Chair

Rob Mabey – proposed by Naomi Tarry and seconded by Alex Tarry & Charlie Hill

Vice Chair

Sara Fox - proposed by Rob Mabey and seconded by Alex Tarry

Treasurer

Mark Fairweather – proposed Rob Mabey and seconded by Charlie Hill

Secretary

Charlie Hill – proposed by Naomi Tarry and seconded by Sara Fox

All of the above were unanimously voted in

Sub Committees

- **Hanging Baskets**

Total cost is about £4500 so a little short at the moment but grateful for the many contributions including the Aldeburgh Society, Council and a generous private donation. Approx £500/£600 short so please contribute and take cheques to Rob at Regatta. Thanks to Barry Shooter for organising.

- **Christmas Lights**

Aldeburgh Music have kindly agreed to take over the funding of the lights. Tracey Virr represented Aldeburgh Music at the meeting and said they have some ideas for entertainment and will soon have a meeting to agree the plan. Charlie read out a report from Liz Biagioni of 2013 activities, if you would like to read the report please contact Annette 0792 1508166.

- **Town Plan**

Graeme Bloomfield is working on the Town Plan

- **Charitable Events – Sue Fletcher**

Peter Osbourne is working with Sue Fletcher on the charitable events. Details of money raised for the ABA chosen charities for 2013/14: - Aldeburgh United and Assisting Charities in Suffolk - (A.C.I.S) who divide the money between St Elizabeth Hospice and Cancer care in Suffolk.

- The Independents' Day quiz which was held in July raised £1163. This quiz was led by local residents and the food was donated by independent businesses and cooked and served by staff at The White Lion. Our speaker, local resident Mike Gidney (Deputy Exec Fairtrade Foundation) gave an excellent speech on Fair Trade and joined in the quiz. Peter Harris shared his very interesting photos of Aldeburgh as it used to be! It was a well attended and enjoyable event. Throughout the Independents' Day 3 day event many raffles were held by shops and businesses for their chosen charities.
- The ABA BBQ at The Dolphin Thorpeness raised £60.
- The recent ABA dinner at The Wentworth raised £64 - so a total of £1287 was shared between the ABA charities.
- Rob's quiz at the Regatta in January (now an annual event in memory of Jimmy) raised £1200 for Rainbow Nursery and the Youth Club.
- Caramel hosted two fashion shows raising £1814 for Cancer Care in Suffolk and £1239.55 for St Elizabeth Hospice.

Many ABA members raise money for their chosen charities and we do not get to hear about the huge amount of money raised in the town, if anyone does want to ensure their excellent efforts and charities are included please let us know.

Sadly the Fundraising and Events committee has lost one of our team Celia, so if anyone is interested in joining us please make contact.

NT asked what the issues are in the town and how the ABA can support it's members?

- AT suggested an opportunity to support businesses which are struggling.
- **Non retail businesses** - Richard Keane suggested the ABA strike a better balance between the service industry and the retail. Suggested more interaction. Paul Rosher stated that Leiston, as an example, made a conscious effort to 'charm' other businesses. It was agreed that this be a key focus for the year.

Sub Committee formed with Richard Keane, Paul Rosher & Charlie Hill.

Charlie to circulate a date for a meeting

- Sarah Whitelock suggested targeting businesses and inviting them to come for free

Any Other Business

- **Tesco** – Sara Fox
Applied to extend their hours from 7am to 11pm. Sara Fox encouraged everyone to write in if you object. Correspondence is in Moot Hall. Objections to Steve Milligan at SCDC.
- **Aldeburgh Town Plan – Lynne Walker**
Public meeting with approx 120 people and making good progress. If anyone wants to meet individually please get in touch lynnewalker53@gmail.com. Major consultation will be in the summer with individual gatherings in the interim.
- **Loyalty card.** Friends of Aldeburgh Library – 41 businesses in Aldeburgh have signed up to a loyalty card to start 1st September and planning a launch, there will be stickers and a card for members. Generally 10% discounts but not including the summer months. Want the businesses to benefit whilst supporting the library. David Gilingwater is designing a leaflet which will be distributed through town. Contact lynnewalker53@gmail.com or Ann Parsons parsons211@btinternet.com www.aldeburghlibraryfoundation.org.uk
- **Carnival – Simon Ives**
22nd carnival. Thanks to everyone for their continued support. There will be a **Silent Auction** which is a substantial fund raiser so I'd be grateful of any vouchers for the auction, needs to be sorted by end of May to give 3 months exposure on the website and promotional material. Having been involved with the carnival for over 30 years; it does bring business and would greatly appreciate businesses through the town **dressing their windows** and properties to give a festive feel throughout the town. Delighted that the Carnival was in the Top 50 events in Suffolk to participate in before you die!
- **Soul by the Sea - 5th July**
Please display posters around the town. RVAitors back and also a spitfire air display
Excellent line up with Soul Kitchen, Geno Washington & The Ram Jam Band.
If you'd like to advertise in the programme please contact Peter
4th July 2015 – Through the decades.
- **Aldeburgh United Charities** – Peter Cox is the new Chairman. Please contact him if you'd like more information petercox.alde@btinternet.com

Next meeting is 7.45am Wednesday 2nd July, Venue TBC