BRAG AGM 15 January 2026

Attendees: Jo Tatum (chair), Peter Ely (Finance), Lucy & Jules Harley, Nigel Spragg, Fergus McCarthy, Dave French, Dave Hawkins, Glen Keywood, Alastair Hazell, Father Martin, Di Watling, Sarah Chittenden, Katy Mepham. Welcome to new joiners Dan O'Brien, Jill McCarthy, Anji Tindall.

Apologies: Laura Schmuttermeier, Charlotte Corner Munroe, Julie French, Sarah Bishopric.

Extraordinary Item – Rob Dembrey is a local resident, researching for a book on the Great War and Kingston and has been investigating local participants who died fighting in WW1 – aiming to find out more about the individuals involved – their lives and how they came to fight in the War and details of their death as well as local Kingston social history from the time. He shared some fascinating information on his findings – the book is due out in November, "One road in the Great War". BRaG is keen to share ideas and opportunities to promote and help support the publicity. Initial ideas include an event as part of the May Merrie, as well as an evening author event closer to the book launch. Will be tabled on the agenda for the next BRAG Committee meeting.

Chair intro and highlights from last year:

The chair thanked the committee and volunteers, committee meeting hosts, Pete for leading Treasury, Secretarial support from Lucy and Sarah, Comms support from Glen and Jules. The committee recognized the sterling efforts of Jo as an exceptional chair and as ever; Father Martin for the support of St Lukes; and Katy Mepham for her work as charity liaison and for hosting the committee Christmas party.

Recognition was also given to Charlie Lynch for delivering all the BRaG promotional material as part of his DoE Gold.

The Chair summed up our 2 events successfully held in 2025:

1. <u>May Merrie</u>:
    - This was the second May Merrie, a great event again, enjoyed by all who attended, with lots more new, young families from the wider community, in line with our BRaG Committee ambitions. The Pie larks and Morris Dancers very well received, including a Maypole and Park Brewery Hog Roast for the first time. We raised more than last year (£941 vs £591) through careful shopping, cost control and re-using the games which we invested in last year.
    - The event will be run again in 2026 on Saturday May 2nd with The Pielarks and Morris Dancers already confirmed. Further planning to be agreed at our next Committee meeting.
2. <u>Oktoberfest</u>:
    - Another great event which raised nearly 60% more than last year (£4122 vs £2671) predominantly due to Higher sales (+15%) and lower costs (-24%). The food, bar and music were enjoyed by all including lots of families with young children who came in the early evening.
    - The event will be run again in 2026, with a proposed date of Saturday 3rd October.

BRAG were proud to donate £4500 to our 3 below charities in 2025 (further details in the Treasury update below). The Chair highlighted that BRAG have delivered £74k in total to charities since we started in 2011 – a fabulous achievement to celebrate.

- St Luke's Church
- Kingston Food Bank
- Barnfield Riding for the Disabled.

We look forward to selecting and supporting our chosen charities this year – see below.

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Treasurer update: Accounts have been reviewed by Caroline Rand (with thanks) and will be appended to these minutes. Caroline will continue for 2026 but would like BRaG to find a replacement auditor for 2027.

2025 saw our highest revenue for the 2 events run, eg for Oktoberfest with £6144 revenue vs £3649 in 2024. We were more efficient with our purchasing, reusing assets and strong cost control but also events were very well attended with good spend and maximising revenue opportunities.

Donations of £500 via Sewing Angels, direct donations and Amazon in addition to payments for renting BRaG equipment e.g. tents/marquees.

£8644 total revenue, £3716 total costs with £4500 donations to our 3 charities, retaining £428. An additional donation from 2024 was made to our charities for £1500. Our remaining balance is £2000.

Thanks to Laura for her role as Deputy Treasurer, with apologies for not being able to resolve the banking access issues.

Thanks were received from Heather for her get well flowers.

IT and internet expenses have increased but cover us for the next 3 years.

BRAG relationship with St Lukes: Father Martin formally retires on 18 October and timing for a replacement is unknown. The Patron of the diocese is the Bishop of Southwark who also retires this year. A case will be put in for BRaG and the continued relationship with St Lukes as a community asset. BRaG should invite the ArchDeacon to planned events for 2026 to see the value first hand of our community events (with early notice to encourage attendance). A formal farewell will be held at 18 October Evensong – however BRaG would like an opportunity to formally thank Father Martin and our appreciation for the support of the church.

Election of the BRaG Committee for 2026: Each year the committee steps down and all roles are put up for re-election

Committee roles

- Chair – Jo Tatum nominated by Father Martin, seconded by Lucy
- Vice Chair – Dave Hawkins nominated by Al, seconded by David French
- Secretary – Lucy Harley nominated by Jo, seconded by Katy
- Vice Secretary – Sarah Chittenden nominated by Lucy, seconded by Nigel
- Treasurer – Peter Ely nominated by Sarah, seconded by Dave Hawkins
- Vice Treasurer – Dan O'Brien nominated by Jo, seconded by Dave Hawkins

Informal posts

- Comms (including Ticketing)/ Website – Jules Harley / Glen Keywood happy to continue
- Charity Liaison – Katy Mepham happy to continue
- Family engagement – Charlotte Corner-Munroe happy to continue
- Community liaison – Di Watling (safer neighbourhoods, NKF) happy to continue, Father Martin (St Lukes)
- Team BRAG – all others

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Charity nominations:

NB: thanks were received and read out from Barnfield for the amazing funds received, highlighting the benefits delivered – specifically putting on an additional group session per week

Initial proposed charities from the committee:

- Barnfield Riding for the Disabled
- Cocoon Care after Care
- Kingston Food Bank
- Kingston Young Carers

(NB: St Lukes will be one of our 3 chosen charities by default).

A first communication will be sent out to residents asking for nominations for our 2026 charities.

A second communication will be distributed with a link to a google form – residents will be asked to confirm they live on the BRAG streets and given a first choice and second choice. Each member of the household will be allowed to vote (regardless of age). The committee also agreed that during the year on an ad hoc basis we may choose to support other charities on a practical basis to leverage our reach and generosity of our local community, e.g. food bank donations, Xmas Operation Goldfish etc.

It was agreed that a subset of the committee would proactively visit our chosen charities to build relationships and offer practical support (in addition to donations) as appropriate.

Communications:

- Review of website hosting for value and functionality – ensure we optimize
- Review of email address and mailing account

Planning Applications

- A sub-committee will be formed to draft a proposed amendment to the constitution allowing BRAG to respond to major planning applications in conjunction with NKF and CARA (including details of how BRAG would engage with the wider community)
- NB the sub-committee needs to be a representative group with pro/con views
- The proposal will then need to be voted on in an EGM
- Sub-Committee members include Nigel, Dave & Julie, Al, Glen, Dave, Peter*

Future Events in 2025:

1. **Quiz** – last Saturday in March 21st Swinnerton Hall is available
2. **May Merrie** – 2nd May (bank holiday) – Pie Larks and Morris Dancers, May Pole dancing booked.
3. **Oktoberfest** – agreed to hold another one, 3rd October – first Saturday in the month.
4. **Bring and Buy Sale –** tbc
5. **Father Martin BRAG Farewell –** October tbc
6. **Book Launch for WW1 Book** – November tbc
7. **BRAG Christmas event**

Agreed actions:

1. Glen to send out comms re nomination of charities by residents
2. Jo/Sarah to contact local schools to promote DoE opportunities

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3. Pete to find a replacement auditor for Caroline in 2026
4. Jo to ask Wayne Mepham to consider taking on auditor role
5. Pete to resolve banking issues to give deputy Treasurer full access
6. Jo to Invite the Bishop of Kingston and the Archdeacon to all BRAG events
7. Table for the March agenda – how to engage with the church to purvey our thanks for their continued support
8. Glen/Jules to investigate finding a supporting comms resource as an option
9. Glen/Jules to review web hosting and email accounts
10. Jo to liaise with Glen/Jules re contact for MailChimp alternatives
11. Ensure NKF updates are included in the agenda for BRAG committee meetings
12. Glen/Katy to share the thanks from Barnfield with the wider BRAG community
13. Ensure we add our charitable donation QR code to all comms and consider additional fundraising and donation opportunities (e.g. at Oktoberfest)
14. Plan for fundraising at the St Lukes Family Carol Concert in December
15. Nigel to lead the sub-committee to draft a proposed amendment to the constitution allowing BRAG to respond to major planning applications (including engagement approach and ways of working) *

DONM: 12th February – Agenda to cover:

- Quiz 21st March
- Planning sub-committee membership confirmation
- Charity confirmation
- Ideas to support Rob's book
- Follow up of AGM actions
- May Merrie update from Charlotte

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***Previous Extraordinary Item for discussion by a Sub-Committee** – Should BRAG consider responding to major planning applications that will likely affect BRAG residents in some way both during and post-construction?
Di Watling (North Kingston Forum) introduced the motion for debate and posted 4 questions to be answered relating to BRAG's involvement in manor planning applications:

1. Informing BRAG membership of any major planning applications submitted that could potentially affect BRAG roads. **AGREED BY THE COMMITTEE THAT THIS IS ALREADY IN ACTION**
2. Encouraging the BRAG membership to consider responding to a major planning application if the above point is true. **AGREED BY THE COMMITTEE THAT THIS IS ALREADY IN ACTION**.
3. The committee to respond to a major planning application should committee members feel that BRAG roads would be affected in some way. **It was agreed that the BRAG committee would need to solicit feedback from members to ask if there are any objections to BRAG sending in a representation to the council. This would need to be done rapidly (given the deadline for response to the planning application) and could be done via email. The BRAG response would be focusing on the environmental and pollution impacts directly resulting from the increase in traffic due to the development. This is in line with our constitution point 4.**
4. Consider sending a potential BRAG response to their membership for their information before submitting to the council