



**Working Together Ludlow**

*to include people with learning difficulties*

## **General Meeting - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 - Rockspring**

**Trustees Present:** Nicola North; Mike Beazley; Alison Holman; Emily Mosley; Julian Crombleholme; Julia Maxwell-Muller.

**Others present:** Nigel Bishop; Jane Jenner; Helen Crombleholme; Jan Amphlett Whyley; Kev Amphlett Whyley; Simon North; Sarah Edwards; Andrew Norton; Dan Wall; Alan Hooper; Steph Hooper; Pamela Barclay; Roger Barclay; Roma Jackson; Clare Currant; David Currant; Helen Hughes; Sam Hine

**Apologies:** Susan, Thomas and Daniel Geuter

Nicola welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked everyone for their ongoing support and commitment to Working Together. Nicola shared her thoughts on what Working Together means to her.

**To approve the minutes from last year's AGM** - The notes were agreed and approved.

### **Annual Report 2023/24**

Nigel shared the highlights of the year in the Annual Report. Copies of the report were available at the meeting and can be made available to others on request. It can also be found on the website.

### **To receive the Annual Accounts 2023/24**

Mike presented the annual accounts and explained the income and expenditure for the year. The accounts show Working Together continues to be in a healthy financial position. Copies of the accounts were available at the meeting and can be made available to others on request.

### **Articles of Association Review**

Mike explained that there had been a review of our Articles of Association to ensure that they reflect our charitable purpose. The charitable objects and guiding principles stay the same. Copies of the amended Articles of Association were available if anyone wanted to read them. The amended Articles will be submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House.

### **Certificate Presentations**

All daytime members have been awarded Fee Star certificates and those attending the AGM had them presented by Nicola.

### **Fee Star Award - Emily and Julia**

The Fee Star award is a very special award that remembers and celebrates our great friend and colleague, Fiona Calderwood, who sadly passed away in 2021.

*This year's award winner brings a wonderful sense of fun to WT. She is full of energy, kindness and enthusiasm in whatever she does. She treats all our members with respect and engages them fully in their tasks and activities with enormous joie de vivre which is infectious.*

*Nothing is an issue that cannot be overcome for this person. For all these reasons we would like to present this year's Fee Star Award to: Sarah GG*

## Looking Forwards to 2025 – Nigel

*Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all our members, families and carers for your on-going support of Working Together - it's very much appreciated.*

*Thank you to all our volunteers, our Rockspring volunteers, our Bookshop volunteers and our community garden volunteers – your support significantly contributes to the range of activities that we can offer to our members and helps make our charity sustainable.*

*Thank you to our brilliant staff team – there isn't a day when they don't go above and beyond and it's very much appreciated.*

*Thank you to our Trustees - who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the charity continues to move forward on the right track. And a special thank you to Nicola, our chair of Trustees for the time and support she gives to me, as Chief Officer.*

*I would also like to take a moment to remember those from the Working Together family who we have sadly lost along the journey...*

*Looking forward:*

*Time doesn't stand still and are already nearly halfway through Working Together's latest financial year. Already this year we have been on some fabulous trips – thank you to Tim and Nicola for looking after us so well on our big day out on the Welshpool Steam Railway – it was a fab day.*

*We visited the Discovery Centre and have taken part in an art workshop here at Rockspring – some of the artwork is on display for you to look at later. We have more trips and activities planned for 2025 – watch this space.*

*We continue to steadily and carefully increase the numbers of members joining us during our daytime sessions. Our priority is always to ensure that we are able to fully support any new members and that they will benefit from joining us at Working Together. We are very happy with how our daytime opportunities are going but we are always looking at how we can further improve and increase the range of activities we have on offer.*

*Thriving - is the word most often used to describe the Working Together Youth Club. The youth club team work really hard to support the young people and their families and carers. We are hugely pleased to be able to announce that we have secured a further three years of Children in Need grant funding to support Youth Club – taking us up to 2027! It's also extremely pleasing to see Youth Club members moving onwards into Diversity when the time comes – another regular social activity for our members that is continuing to thrive.*

*Alongside the support we are able to offer to our members our purpose is also to support our their families and carers. We have been increasing the number of events aimed at this, including our recent presentation by the Help to Claim service on transitioning from ESA allowance to Universal Credit, which was well received. We're hosting our very first families and carers coffee morning on Monday morning – everyone is welcome, and coffee, cakes and mince pies are definitely the order of the day!*

*As part of our Christmas celebrations Diversity members would like to invite everyone to a bowling evening on 9<sup>th</sup> December – more details are in our latest newsletter.*

*In January we are pleased to host a presentation by Janna and some of her colleagues from MFG solicitors on Understanding Power of Attorney and the Court of Protection. We understand this is important topic and it is open it to all members, families and carers. If you know of anyone who*

*would benefit from attending who isn't directly connected to Working Together – they are also welcome too. Again, details are in the newsletter or come and talk to me.*

*A big thing for us in 2025 will be taking on more of the building management responsibilities here at Rockspring through what we hope will be a long term lease from Shropshire Council. This will provide us with even greater stability. It also provides us with an ideal opportunity to look more closely at our environmental impact and sustainability.*

*We're calling 2025 Working Together's Year of the Environment and we'll shortly be announcing a fantastic programme of associated activities, including some trips out, that our members and the wider Working Together family will be encouraged to be part of.*

*There's a lot to look forward to - thank you!*

### **Any other business**

Sarah Edwards shared her thoughts on Working Together and how important it is to her family.

Alan Hooper thanked everyone at Working Together for their support.

Andrew Norton shared his thoughts on the changes at Oak Farm and Nigel shared a message for everyone from Thomas Geuter.

Nicola closed the AGM and everyone was invited to enjoy refreshments and visit the Youth Club disco.

After the meeting Sarah GG was presented with the Fee Star Award by Emily and Julia.