

## **M.F.T. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

### **Held 13th January 2007 at Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre**

Those Present: Bernadette Shrubshall, Chris Storey, David Axton, Doug Neupert, Richard Hopper, David & Sue Cook, Sam Cook, Ian Coles, Philip Mellor, Angela Payne, Lucy Bolden, Pat Higgins, Mr & Mrs Newell, Miriam Newell, Mr & Mrs Chapman, Kevin Chapman, Alex Quinn. Brenda Copeman.

Apologies: Clare Evans, Wendy & Chris Barker, Roger Magnall, John Matthissen, David Armsby, Roy & Ann Armsby, Mary Jane Toulson, Heather Reid, Chris Hakes, Marisa Davey, Val Axton, Christine Debenham, Alan Bartrum

#### **• WELCOME**

Bernadette opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She welcomed Angela Payne, who has taken an interest in M.F.T. and is interested in becoming a Trustee. She told us she is retired teacher and has been involved with children with learning disabilities and Otley College. Pat Higgins is another new member and she introduced herself and gave a presentation on who she is and what she would like to do with M.F.T. She has been to the M.F.T. sites and is willing to be a support worker and would also like to become a Trustee.

Lucy Bolden introduced herself, she is Business Development Manager for Papworth Trust and is also interested in becoming involved with M.F.T.

#### **• TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT**

Work done includes networking with umbrella voluntary organisations, contacting companies and individuals, circulating posters and adverts, and more recently publicity. There was a special note of thanks to James Powell of Optua and David Axton for compiling press releases which went out to the media week beginning 8th January. There has been a good response and several enquiries about M.F.T. Thanks to E.A.D.T., Ipswich Evening Standard and Radio Suffolk for highlighting our needs. Angela Payne is willing to become a Trustee, this will solve our problem of needing to have at least three Trustees and could help in applications for grants etc.

#### **• FINANCIAL STATUS AND RECENT NEWS**

Doug Neupert gave us an update on the financial status. At the moment after all payments are made we have a total of £2675 left in the bank. There is a donation expected from Suffolk Single Gateway of £5000 for 2007 and another £5000 for 2008 to come, and there could be one from Lloyds TSB. We also had an anonymous donation of £500, £600 from Ipswich Building Society, £50 from Mr Greenleaves, £50 from Claas and £250 from Mary Jane Toulson. Many thanks to all donors. Lucy told us of an application we could make if it could be got in quickly. Richard Hopper was going to try and get this done.

#### **• UPDATE ON FARMWORKERS REINSTATEMENT & NEW RECRUITS**

We are hoping to reinstate the farm workers who currently haven't been able to go to M.F.T. due to having no Direct Payments or other funding, using the money from K.P.M.G. Kevin Chapman who went on Sunday's does not have a free day in the week, there are no Sunday sessions at the moment, but his place will be protected. Bernadette told him of an art session to be held on Saturdays and asked if he would be interested in going to that as a way of keeping in touch. He said he would be interested in this. M.F.T. would like to be able to operate five days a week, but need more support workers and also to have farm workers who have funding in place. Philip spoke about the problems at Rede with only being able to go 1-2 days a week, this does not give enough time to look after crops. He suggested developing crops to reach a more niche market, maybe sell at local farmer's markets. Also the workshop is underused at the moment, suggestions are needed as to how to get the most out of it. There is a need for more woodwork training, and to be able to make saleable items. It takes a large part of the budget in rental. Ian queried the viability in keeping Rede in view of the financial situation. Chris Storey said that we should keep Rede as the basic project of M.F.T. was to start a farm of its own and at Rede we do have our own piece of land to work.

- **PRIORITIES FOR 2007**

- Increase no. of Trustees and committee members.
- Establish a two layer management team (day to day and strategic levels)
- Upskill all committee members in management, IT, running a business, etc.
- Increase and improve income sources
- Decrease dependence on grants
- Renew our business plan in light of recent developments.
- Increase number of support staff and number of workdays.
- Consider new crops/activities which are high in income but low in labour/time needs
- Build on and extend current media support and business involvement.
- Highlight our training provision and learning accomplishments.
- Maybe contact students, who may be willing to do a DVD and visit Rede as part of their coursework.

- **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

M.F.T. are going to need someone to do admin work and take minutes at meetings from March. I have been doing for about three years, apart from attending meetings it takes just a few hours to type and then do coies, write envelopes and post.

**Shows and events M.F.T. would like to attend - requesting offer of help to man stalls, run events.**

The season starts with the South Suffolk Show on Sunday 13th May, then Euston Rural Past-times on Sunday 10th June. Horham Fair and car boot sale is on Saturday 9th June.

Stowmarket also has a music and carnival event on Sunday 10th June.  
Nowton Park Country Fair is Sunday 17th June.  
There will be an open day at Rede to be arranged in either June or July.

Confirming date for joint M.F.T. - Ramblers walk(s) 2007  
Saturday 12th May, Sat 16th June, Sat 18th Aug, Sat 8th Sept, Sat 22nd Sept.

**The next bi-monthly meeting was planned for 7th March to be held at Stowmarket**

**LATE NEWS!**

M.F.T. have secured the opportunity of a sponsored bag-packing session in Asda in Stowmarket on Easter Monday 9th April.  
Please could you let know Bernadette if you are able to help.

Meeting closed at 4pm.