

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13th SEPTEMBER 2024 IN THE LITTLE BOOKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present (Committee members only)

Brian Baker (Secretary)

Ian Brand

Phil Cook

Adam Dunlop

Sue Halford

Nick Neville

Lynda Sears

1. Welcome

Brian Baker welcomed everyone to the AGM.

2. Apologies for absence (Committee members only)

Chris Bourgeois

Joan Gillingham

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes were approved.

4. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Ian Brand provided an overview of the Club's Activities.

5. Secretary's Report

Brian Baker provided an overview of the state of the Club and thoughts on the future, see attached report.

6. Treasurer's Report

Brian provided a summary of the accounts for Year Ending 31 July 2024.

7. Proposed Annual Membership and Course Fees

It was proposed that the annual membership fee for the forthcoming year (Sept 2024 to Sept 2025) be kept at £35. The proposal was approved.

8. Committee

Ian Brand said he wished to stand down as Chairman. In the absence of a volunteer the position was left vacant and will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Post Meeting Note: Geoff Corbett volunteered to join the committee and was elected as the new Chairman at the subsequent committee meeting held on 3 January 2025.

Brian Baker said he was willing to stand for election for the combined role of Secretary/Treasurer which was approved.

Chris Bourgeois, Phil Cook, Adam Dunlop, Sue Halford, Nick Neville and Lynda Sears said they were willing to stand for re-election to the committee. Brian Baker proposed that the committee should be re-elected en-block which was approved.

BOOKHAM SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

9. Proposed Dates for 2024

Dates for Autumn Term 2024 were announced as follows:

- (a) Friday morning sessions (10:00 – 12:00)
 - AGM - Friday 13 September 2024
 - Friday 20 September - Friday 6 December 2024 (12 weeks)
 - Christmas Party – Friday 6 December 2024
- (b) Wednesday Afternoon Clinics (14:30 – 16:30)
 - Wednesdays 11 September, 2 October, 6 November and 4 December 2024

All meetings and clinics will be held at the Little Bookham Village Hall including those on the first Friday of the month.

10. Proposed Courses for Autumn 2024

Sue Halford presented a draft of the proposed courses for Autumn Term 2024 (posted on website).

11. Any Other Business

On behalf of the members, Jinny Harvey proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for the hard work they have carried out during the year.

12. Date of Next AGM

10:00 on Friday 5 or 12 September 2025 (tbc).

Brian Baker, Secretary

30 September 2024

Updated 31 January 2025.

BOOKHAM SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

Secretary's Report AGM 2024

The Bookham Seniors Computer Club is about to enter its fifteenth year. It was founded in 2010 to help those over 50 who hadn't grown up with computers to access the internet and communicate with email. Of course at that time, most of the club's members had desktop computers at home - very few had laptops that they could bring the courses held in the village hall. As a consequence, the club invested in 14 laptops that members could use during what were mainly beginners' classes to find out what computers were all about.

Since then things have changed a great deal and in a relatively short space of time.

Most of the club's members now have a laptop, a tablet or a smartphone; many now have two devices and quite a number have all three. The club now only has three (?) of the original laptops which are used to prepare and deliver some courses and, very occasionally, for those very few members that only have a desktop computer and for the occasional absolute beginner who has no device at all, and, sometimes no internet at home either. Whatever the situation, all are still made very welcome. The club also has a Windows 11 laptop, an iPad, an Android tablet, an iPhone, a printer and now even Smart TV.

People's skill levels have also changed over that time and not always for the better. Perhaps an extreme example but probably by no means unusual, twenty years ago I came across a secretary (not mine!) who would print a document from her email. She would then scan it back to her computer because it downloaded it to the documents folder so she could then save it to the folder where it belonged. More recently, in 2023 in fact, I read of a story of someone who had to explain to a new employee what a Start button on Windows was. The new employee had only been exposed to smartphones and tablets and never used a PC before.

Incidentally, this employee had also never used a mouse before but after a short while, it just clicked.

And, of course, the devices and software keeps changing: Microsoft has brought out Windows 11 whilst support for Windows 10 will cease in October next year. Apple continues to bring out new and increasingly more expensive iPads and iPhones along with changes to the operating systems that drive them. Android based tablets and smartphones along with the Android operating system also keep changing and so it goes on.

I don't know if you heard, but the Apple store in Kingston was robbed the other week and £25,000 of merchandise was stolen. Police said that they hope to get both computers back.

Scams continue to increase as scammers perfect their methods to take advantage of tech innovations, particularly with younger adults as they do a lot more of their finances online and spend more time on social media apps. Scams are a subject which we've tried to address frequently and will continue to do so.

By the way, if you think that your computer, laptop, phone or tablet spying on you is scary then think again - because your vacuum cleaner has been gathering dirt on you for years.

It is almost certain that AI will become more and more prevalent than it is today and will become a pervasive technology in virtually all areas including automation, manufacturing, finance and services. We hope to include some sessions on AI this term.

We will run through our proposed course schedule shortly.

BOOKHAM SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

I would like to thank all the committee members and volunteers here and of course those who aren't here today for their help and support throughout the year. In particular, I would like to thank Sue for her hard work in managing the membership database, sending out the weekly invitations to the Friday sessions and Wednesday afternoon clinics; Lynda for her untiring devotion to providing tea, coffee and biscuits, Sue again along with Adam and Neville for researching, preparing and delivering the Friday morning sessions and, of course, John Cross for his tireless effort ensuring the hall is set-up, cleaned and fit for purpose.

I would also like to thank all of you, our members. Without you we wouldn't be able to keep the club going – you allow us to continue to offer the drop-in sessions and courses by spreading the word about our club.

We hope you have enjoyed any and every of the sessions you have attended this year and hope you will sign-up for many more. The sheets will be out at the back of the hall while we have refreshments and there are also sheets for you to suggest anything that we may have missed or anything you would like to see us cover.

You can also contact us by phone or email. You should all have Sue's email address from her newsletters. Our contact details are also in the Bookham Bulletin and the new Roundabout Effingham magazine. There is also a 'Contact Us' form on the website.

Finally, I'd like to leave with this thought: when the person who invented the USB drive dies will they lower his coffin into the grave, realize they put it in the wrong way and have to do it again?

Brian Baker, Secretary.