

# MK Reader Service AGM 2015

## Nominations for Committee

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### **Nominations for Chairperson & Service User Members**

#### **Paula Suchy MBE**

I am a user of the Reader Service and have had a Reader for over twenty-six years. I represent visually impaired people on the committee and have been on the committee now for twenty-three years, having previously been Fund-raising volunteer and Vice-Chair, my role now is as Chairperson.

During this time, I have been involved in recruiting and supervising of the Co-ordinator and the training of volunteers.

I have a good overall knowledge of the running of the service and, as a committee member, feel I have a lot to contribute in helping the Co-ordinator and in serving the management committee.

I am currently the Vice Chairperson on the Sound News committee and also serve on the Disability Advisory Group for Milton Keynes Council and the Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Consultation Group.

#### **Paula Varey**

I have been a service user for over 20 years. I have been on the management committee for over eleven years during which time I have been Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Currently I help with some fundraising. I also participated in the original 'shop and see' project and now use this service regularly. I am a member of the Reader Service Development Committee.

As I have benefited from many of the services the Reader Service has to offer, I would like to remain on the committee to help ensure its continued success and further development.

I am currently on the committee of 'Sound News', the local talking newspaper, having been a previous chairperson.

#### **Jeff Bashton**

I wish to stand again for the MK Reader Service committee as a service user rep.

I am totally blind and have personal and professional experience of visual impairment. I have managed services for blind people in an inner London

Borough and worked as an adviser in sensory impairment at the Department of Health from 1991-2005. I am currently an advisor as the Visual Impairment Adviser at the Open University and also a trustee of the Disabled Living Foundation. With my experience and knowledge I believe I can continue to contribute positively to the development of the MK Reader Service.

### **Michael Baldry**

My name is Michael Baldry and I have lived in Far Bletchley for over 25 years. I have here children and five grandchildren – all girls! I am retired, having been a Pump Engineer.

In 1996, I became a member of BAB, now Bucks Vision and was a committee member and volunteer for several years. I started to attend MKRS Committee meetings, as BAB representative and became a full committee member, a few years ago. I am presently Vice Chairperson and also serve on the Reader Service Development Committee.

### **Caroline Pearson**

I am a serving member of the Milton Keynes Reader Service Committee and was a Co-opted member of the Committee for several years. In the early Nineteen Nineties I served as an elected member of the Committee.

I have lived in Milton Keynes for 39 years and have been involved within the Voluntary Sector since 1987. I have served on various Committees, both locally and at County level, to support the needs of Visually Impaired People. I am Visually Impaired myself and have been since birth.

I have held various Elected Officer roles within local Committees and have also been a Trustee of a County Charity.

I am employed by the Milton Keynes Sensory Service as a Rehabilitation Worker for Visual Impairment which involves me working within the Milton Keynes Hospital Eye Clinic, meeting, sign-posting and providing information to newly registered Patients. I also work within the Community visiting Clients within their homes to assess their needs and make referrals to local service providers.

I am a User of the Milton Keynes Reader Service.

## **Service Volunteer Committee Members & Treasurer**

### **Philip Ward**

I have been a volunteer with MK Reader Service for over 10 years in the roles of reader, facilitator and audio recorder.

I served on the MKRS committee as the BucksVision representative until I resigned from the BucksVision committee at the end of 2009. I remained on the Reader Service committee as a co-opted member until I was elected as a volunteer member in my own right in 2010.

Since 2010 I have served as Chair of the Development Committee where we are tasked with charting a pathway for the Reader Service in these times of financial stringency and "The Big Society".

The challenges facing the Reader Service specifically and the voluntary sector in general remain. Issues ranging from funding and publicity to defining an appropriate structure for the organization will occupy us for the next few years.

I would like to continue my contribution to charting the future for the Reader Service.

### **Lynn Bovis**

I have been a volunteer with Milton Keynes Reader Service since 1994 and have assisted four service users. My tasks have been varied, from dealing with and filing of personal correspondence, making telephone calls, to taking my user shopping as part of the 'Shop and See' project. I was also a member of the group which organised the Reader Service's 20th birthday celebrations in 2008. Being part of the Reader Service has also offered me opportunities, such as assisting with arts and crafts sessions at InterAction. As well as providing refreshments, I was also able to help the participants with card making, bead jewellery and stone carving and sometimes I was able to have a go myself. For the past year I have been the Minutes Secretary. I feel that the Reader Service provides an important, essential and valued service to many people.

### **James M Clifton**

My name is James Maxwell CLIFTON and I currently live in Wolverton.

I am a chartered architect and town planner. I have worked for the Canal & River Trust (formerly British Waterways) for over 21 years.

Before I moved to the Milton Keynes area I was one of the readers for the Talking Newspaper in the Hemel Hempstead area.

In Milton Keynes, I work with one service user on a weekly basis, am a reader for Sound News and record the brochures for several local theatres.

My interests are walking, cycling and listening to the radio. I have two adult children.

### **Rose Haigh**

I am a retired database manager and have lived in Milton Keynes for over twenty years. I have been a volunteer with MK Reader Service since 2008 and have been a regular Reader for most of that time. I also work as a facilitator, help with office tasks and prepare items for recording as part of the Transcription Service.

With a keen interest in arts and crafts, some may know me as the lady who pesters you for money trying to sell you hand made goods. I have raised a few pounds for MKRS as a result of making lavender bags and brooches.

As a result of concerns I raised at the last AGM I was co-opted onto the committee and have been an active committee member as a result, currently managing the preparation and issuing of the 2014 volunteer and User surveys. For me, membership of the Management Committee means having a willingness to go the extra mile towards helping with the running of the Reader Service.

### **Stephen Harrison**

I have been a volunteer with the MK Reader Service since 2008 and have worked with two service users. I have just left the Civil Service after 27 years (26 of them commuting to London from Milton Keynes!) and was delighted to be asked to take over from Mary Kendall as Treasurer in the summer. While I have never been a Treasurer of an organisation, I have been responsible for accounting for the use of the odd few million pounds of taxpayers' funds over the years. I hope it was all spent wisely.

I have really enjoyed the last few years of working with my service users and hope to contribute more to the Reader Service as a member of the committee.