

BOPAG Meeting via ZOOM

June 16th 2021 at 2pm

Minutes

Hosts – Alan Barnard (BOPAG Chairman)

Paula Watts (BOPAG Administrator)

Attendees – 24

Introduction and welcome by Alan Barnard (*Sporting a very fetching Medical Detection Dogs baseball hat*) who then introduced our speaker Baiju McCubbins from Medical Detection Dogs.

Baiju gave us a very informed and fascinating speech about how and why the charity was formed and gave us an insight to how the incredible canines are trained to detect various illnesses within humans and how they alert sufferers of Diabetes type 1 to deficiencies in sugar levels. Medical Detection Dogs trains dogs to detect the odour of human disease with the aim of developing faster, more efficient, and less invasive diagnostics that lead to better patient outcomes.

Questions and Answers followed.

This amazing charity depends on donations, so if you enjoyed the talk, please show your support, if you can, by way of donation. For any individuals who would like to donate, please use the link below, which also enables them to take advantage of the uplift with Gift Aid.

<https://www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk/donations/donate-2/>

When completing the form, please can you:

1. Select Other in the Reason for Donation field
2. In the Details fields, please indicate that the donation is being given following the talk given to BOPAG Talk given on the 16th of June.

Notices: **Workaid – Liz Elliot.** Workaid is based in the Old Boot factory in Chesham and started in 1986 by Volunteers. They collect unwanted tools and equipment from across the country, refurbish and distribute them to people in need, to help them learn a skill and earn a living. They are committed to tackling poverty in a practical way by supporting young people in East Africa and in the UK to build sustainable livelihoods through skills training. Their shop is open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10am-4pm. Their address is 71 Townsend Road, Chesham, HP5 2AA. Telephone: 01494 775220 Donations by appointment please. <https://workaid.org/how-to-help/donate-tools/>

Ann Standen asked if there were other branches; there is only one in Chesham.

Simply Walks – Fiona Broadbent – unfortunately, Fiona had to leave the meeting due to time constraints and the technical issues we were having delaying the speakers. Her information will be added to the BOPAG Hoot magazine for July.

Woodland Manor Care Home – Wendy Healy. Based in Chalfont St Peter, Wendy informed us of 2 Café's they are running at the beginning of August for the local community of Older People. One every Wednesday morning; informal chat to bring people together. The other, Dementia Friends on the first Friday of every month, coffee morning, carers invited too. **PW will add to the BOPAG Hoot Magazine.**

Mike McDonald introduced himself to Wendy as part of the resident's association as they are also based in the locality.

Linda asked Wendy if her staff had been vaccinated and Wendy replied that they majority had, and they have a policy in place to ensure new employees have had both injections prior to appointing.

Ros Shorrocks from Age UK – reminded attendees of a new project they are involved with Walking Football which is aimed at the over 50's, male and female, taking place on Thursday mornings at 10am in Lane End, at Wycombe Wanderers training ground. Ros also requested help regarding any information on projects aimed at growing food as they are working with Food Space Bucks on a community project. Please contact Ros if you have any information 01296 438411 or by email to rsorrocks@ageukbucks.org.uk

Linda mentioned that Burnham have a vibrant walking football club too.

Paula offered congratulations to Ros on completing her walking project; An 84-mile trek between Wallsend and Bowness-on Solway, following the line of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall. She has raised £680 in support of older people.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rosandpete>

Any other business:

Mike McDonald mentioned that he is part of LHA representing older people in Leasehold retirement villages. He said that the Government are enthusiastically pursuing a gender of reform in leasehold and ground rents as they have been mismanaged. He would like BOPAG to consider this topic for a discussion at a later stage. AB said he would consult with Mike to arrange. Linda also in support.

David Whittaker mentioned that his local volunteering teams that had been mentioned in the recent Queens Honour list. You can read about this amazing achievement here;

<https://www.buckinghamshirelive.com/news/buckinghamshire-news/queens-birthday-honours-list-2021-5516923>

AB: Alan thanked the speakers and all who attended the meeting and applauded everyone for their patience as we experienced some technical difficulties during Baiju's speech.

Next date will be announced in the BOPAG Hoot and on our website.

<https://bopag.org.uk/>

If you would like any changes or amendments made to these minutes, please contact Paula.

paulawatts.bopag@btinternet.com