ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 16th MAY 2023

**Annual Report from the Chairman of the Executive Committee**

I am delighted to report a particularly successful year in terms of membership activity and well attended meetings, initiated by a new committee team.

Meetings included –

* 20th September September Taster Menu event venue at Tom’s Table
* 11th October – Meeting at Stonyhurst Museum
* 7th December – Everything Retreat ‘Show round’ and networking event
* 18th January 2023 Clitheroe Castle – Members Meeting

The way in which the organisation is managed and meets continues to evolve, maximising technology to communicate in this post covid world. Getting together as a networking group is nonetheless still valuable, as by meeting face-to-face, we can make new business contacts and learn from each other, which inevitably means the tourism product of Ribble Valley becomes even stronger.

Your executive committee has met only as necessary during the year but communicated regularly via email and zoom. The following has also been achieved: -

* Our administration continues to be supported by the Council officers, including valuable student support, and we maximise the use of technology in communication.
* Our website continues to be updated and is now being supplemented with Facebook and LinkedIn accounts.
* In partnership with the Council, we manage visitor information points, designed to promote our members’ businesses, and encourage more people into host venues.
* We supported the Council’s tourism promotional activities, sponsoring the RVBC tourism stand at the Destination Holiday Show, Manchester and at the Group Travel and Tourism Show.
* In partnership with the Council, we held a very successful Tourism Gathering at Hobbit Hill where we were able to celebrate tourism through the Stars IN Tourism awards.

I would like to thank DSM Chartered Accountants, Whalley, for their help in managing our account. The company is well known locally and is very supportive of the local community. Their help is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Harrison and Drury for sponsoring the awards this year, and for their continued support for our activities.

I would like to express my thanks to Ribble Valley Borough Council for their valuable support, we are lucky to have a Council that recognises the value of a strong tourism association in their locality. I would also like to express my appreciation to members of the executive committee for their support. We continue to try and make our meetings fun, but also focussed and, for anyone thinking about joining, we only meet when we need to, with paperwork kept to a minimum by communicating electronically, wherever possible.

Looking forward to the new year, we are particularly keen for the membership to grow, as we feel there is still much scope to expand and hopefully many non-members attending this event will consider joining. We hope that all members will help us by recommending, and moreover, recruiting new members.

Given the success of membership activity this year, we are keen to build on this and provide a programme of interesting and enjoyable meetings and events, including business networking events. We want these to be held in different locations and at different times of the day, to ensure all members, whatever their location or circumstances, can participate. We welcome your suggestions for themes and content, and I invite you to put your views on the questionnaire handed out on your arrival at the AGM.

In conclusion, I hope you agree that your association continues to grow in reputation, and I hope that you will all continue to support our events and find value in working collectively to promote tourism in the Ribble Valley.

**Amanda Dowson Ribble Valley Tourism Association 16th May 2023**