

Welwyn Hatfield U3A

Minutes of 32nd AGM

Held at Breaks Manor on March 13th 2019

		ACTION
1	Apologies C.Parsons	
2	Minutes of 2018 AGM Approved and signed	
3	Matters Arising i)Appointment of examiner of the accounts. Gail Maisey was appointed during the year	
4	<p>Chairman's Report - SB</p> <p>My goodness another year in the busy whirl of U3A life has just flown by ! Who can believe it's nearly a year since we had the fascinating talk entitled Roald Dahl's War and what a very varied programme of Wednesday morning speakers we have had throughout the year, from folk music and song, yoga around UK, how to control your wife, Titanic, spare part surgery, is there nothing that our tenacious and diligent speakers' team can't find speakers on for our delight and edification ... I'm not sure who I'm most impressed with, the actual speakers or our Speakers' Team for finding them – many thanks to the 5 of them for their exceptional finds.</p> <p>Many equally interesting and varied trips have been organised by our dedicated group leaders; studying the architecture of Peterborough's cathedral, enjoying the delights, views and history that the Lake District, Suffolk and Liverpool offer and the many fascinating places to be found in our extraordinary capital London, appreciating art in all its forms, revelling in beautiful gardens and strolling through the Hertfordshire countryside and of course checking out its pubs!</p> <p>New groups have started up during the year, Oil Painting, Painting, Table Tennis, Ukulele and soon an Exploring London 5 is expected to start. What many and varied interests our membership have.</p> <p>Our social calendar thrives, the summer party with quiz, our Christmas party with quiz, our Christmas lunch and of course what have now become regular fixtures in our year, our summer and winter dances with The Beaucrees.</p> <p>All these activities would not happen without all the time given and considerable efforts made by many people all busy working on our behalf. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for everything that they do to help make our U3A run smoothly and efficiently and for providing us with such an exciting and vibrant group. As you know we have for 2019 reduced our annual membership fee to £5.00, having accrued monies unexpectedly as the council did not increase their venue hire costs as we had been told they would. We still do not know when these costs will be introduced, our Groups Co-ordinator/Vice Chair is in regular contact with the council representative on this ongoing matter.</p> <p>Throughout the year we have purchased equipment to further improve members' enjoyment of their U3A attendance; audio systems for Wednesday meetings and study groups, to help the hearing-impaired, new dedicated computers for the Computer Groups and the Membership Secretary (the latter to help our compliance to GDPR), updated replacements for some of our other ageing equipment like projector screens and a tour guide system, (for those with or without hearing aids), for all groups who go on trips.</p>	

	<p>As I step down from the Chair at this AGM, I personally wish to thank our wonderful committee for their hard work and dedication to our U3A, and for the amazing patience and support they have given me during my short tenure of office. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have made so many new and now dear friends through joining such a wonderful group, hurrah for Welwyn Hatfield U3A.</p>	
5	<p>Treasurer's Report -JG</p> <p>You can see from the Income, Expenditure and Balance sheets this has been a good year financially. We have covered our costs and ended up with a surplus of £10,466.64. We also have a reserve in the bank of £4,432.63.</p> <p>Last year our income was more than £25,000 again so we need to submit our accounts to the Charity Commission. Page 1 is the Charity Commission's proforma, which our Auditor has completed, so that is why the sheets in front of you are labelled Page 2 and Page 3.</p> <p>Income:</p> <p>Receipts from subscriptions this year have stayed about the same. Gift Aid is a great benefit to our finances, so many thanks to all those who signed the form. We received £3986.18 Gift Aid for the tax year 2017-2018.</p> <p>Expenditure:</p> <p>Rental costs for the Wednesday meetings and for the groups that meet in rented accommodation are a significant expenditure. My thanks go to David Cushen who has been dealing with the Rental payments since last January.</p> <p>We pay £3.50 for each full member to Head Office each year. Which covers items such as insurance, the magazine, general admin, setting up new groups etc</p> <p>Assets:</p> <p>Large items that we have bought:</p> <p>Membership Laptop and Office. £518.99</p> <p>Audio System for Architecture. £109.75</p> <p>Tour Guide System for groups to use when out on trips. £4521.60</p> <p>I would like to thank Arseven Gumush, the previous Treasurer. He has produced the financial results. I would also like to thank Gail Maisey ACMA, who has audited these accounts.</p>	
6	<p>Member Secretary's Report - PF</p> <p>Another dynamic year since the last AGM with new members joining all the time During 2018, 107 members joined with 61 leaving often due to them moving out of the area. Making a total of the membership as 804 which is 6% up on the final number for the end of 2017</p> <p>Up to the time of this AGM a further 45 new members have joined. 12 members have left, sadly 8 of these have passed away.</p> <p>This, as many of you will have noticed this has increased the number of people attending the Wednesday meetings, often now attended by 160 to 180 members each week. So a big thank you to Bharati and her team for organising the speakers, She will talk more about this later.</p> <p>During 2018 it was agreed that we would reduce the membership fee for 2019 only. As at the time of this AGM we have noticed that most people did change their standing orders, however a lot did not. We have provided rebates for some members especially those who have passed away since the beginning of this year.</p> <p>Quite a few of the members who consciously or not, didn't change their standing orders. A number have formally told us to keep the difference as a donation on the basis as one member put it "It is really good value for money at £30, we are really enjoying our membership and have made a lot of new friends since we joined last year"</p>	

	<p>It amazes me that people do not check every so often their bank statements or list of Standing orders. We have received payment from people who passed away more than 2 years ago. We have also seen payments of different amounts based on when they set up their standing orders a number of years ago, we have people paying both £30 and £5. Some of these we believe to be bank errors as they set up new Standing orders and did not cancel last years.</p> <p>As of the end of February 41 members had not paid their membership for this year so far. We know for historic reasons some members pay their membership later in the year, we will review the outstanding ones and chase up these payments as appropriate.</p> <p>We have 20 Associate member's, these are members who belong to another U3A group as well as Welwyn Hatfield and amazingly 24 Honorary members, that is members who are over 90. As Honorary members are not required to pay an annual subscription please ensure I am informed that you have reached this age and then cancel your standing order.</p> <p>Similarly, if you change your address, telephone number or email address please ensure I am informed, as we then not only update the database but also the mailing system we use and the U3A trust use for The Third Age Matters Magazine.</p> <p>Just as a reminder, in our compliance to GDPR, we do not keep your bank account details the standing orders are passed to the banks once we have added your membership number to them.</p>	
7	<p>Group Co-ordinator's Report- AD</p> <p>We have had another full year for our 64 groups. We have lost some and gained others which include two Art, a Table Tennis and a Ukulele. There are also a couple of new groups in the pipeline so watch this space.</p> <p>A few groups have had to change leader during the year. The members have together worked out solutions so thankfully none have closed because of this. This embodies the ethos of the U3A-that we all work together to share our knowledge, expertise and responsibility.</p> <p>Last March the Meet the Groups event had a record attendance as did the Art and Photography exhibition in November. These events demonstrate a visible record of what we do. I hope for record attendance at this year's Meet the Groups on April 3rd at WGC.</p> <p>I am always ready to advertise new interest groups and help them get started. On occasions I have been approached by members asking why we do not offer, for example, Paragliding or Klingon. My explanation is that we are a cooperative and not a service. We can only offer groups if a) we find sufficient interest in the topic offered, b) a person from within those people willing to be a figurehead or leader and if necessary, with a niche topic like Klingon, c) someone with the expertise to guide the group. Many groups function extremely well as a self help unit where turns are taken in leading and joint decisions are taken about how the group proceeds.</p> <p>As always I need to give a big thank you to all the Group Leaders. Please be willing to support them in any way you can. Without them we would not be able to continue our quest to enjoy learning new things, to share our skills with others and to enjoy new friendships always supported and enriched by tea, coffee and biscuits.</p>	
8	<p>Programme Secretary's Report BC</p> <p>Corrie Godfrey, Colin Slade, Jill Longman, Jill McKinnon and Bharati Chauhan make up</p>	

	<p>the Speaker Team. Each term we have a meeting to discuss booking speakers and dates are allocated to each member to take on the task of booking the speaker. Bharati Chauhan looks after to the team and prepares the schedules, and these are then provided to Jill Longman to prepare and complete the programme for our members.</p> <p>Bharati would like to thank her team for all their dedication and hard work they put in to ensure that we have a speaker each week for our members.</p>	
9	<p>Appointment of examiner of the accounts G.Maisey is willing to continue Proposed by J.Grant and seconded by M.Dorrington, duly appointed</p>	
10	<p>Amendments to the constitution (i)Honorary Officers At the Annual General Meeting of theU3A the members shall elect from amongst themselves a chairman, a vice- chairman, a secretary and treasurer.... The proposal is to change vice –chairman to Deputy Chairman</p> <p>Existing Clause 6 ii) The Committee</p> <p>(II) The Committee Shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 14 being A) The Honorary officers specified in the preceding sub- clause B) Not less than 1 and not more than 10 members elected at the AGM who shall hold office from conclusion of that meeting The proposal is (II) The Committee Shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 16 being A) The Honorary officers specified in the preceding sub- clause B) Not less than 1 and not more than 12 members elected at the AGM who shall hold office from conclusion of that meeting. Proposed by M.Scales seconded byJ.Mackie. Motion approved</p>	
11	<p>Appointments of Officers Chairman Richard Griffiths Proposed by M.Cleveland seconded by T.Scan Deputy Chairman P.Williams Proposed by A.Davies seconded by B.Chauhan Treasurer S.Talbot proposed by A.Davies seconded by J.Grant Secretary M.Scales proposed by A.Glover seconded by A.Davies All approved for two year term of office</p>	
12	<p>Appointment of Committee i)R.Swaine, T.Tutton, H.Bell D.Cushen, BHARTI Chauhan, P.Fox and J.Longman,all approved to continue in their term as members of the committee ii)A.Davies Proposed by S.Brown seconded by P.Fox J.Thomas proposed by M.Scales seconded by S.Park P.Barratt propped by A.Davies seconded by B.Chauhan C.Slade propped by A.Davies seconded by P.Fox S.Williams proposed by S.Talbot seconded by J.Brown All elected for three year term as committee members</p>	
13	<p>Any Other Business – No other business Meeting closed at 11.15</p>	