

## Welwyn Hatfield u3a

### 34<sup>th</sup> AGM

#### Held via Zoom on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Pam Williams (Chair) welcomed everyone to this AGM, having stated that the reports have been sent out electronically prior to this meeting. For those without electronic means, were sent hard copies of all the documentation.

For a quorum we required 82 members to be present, actual number was over 110

1	<b>Apologies</b> received from the following Suzanne and John Brown, Sally and David George, Margaret and Michael Lewis, Bruce Morton, Richard Griffiths, Peter Gamby and Marion Cleveland
2	<b>Minutes of 33<sup>rd</sup> AGM</b> Minutes were approved and signed by M.Scales on behalf of P.Williams who will counter sign them as soon as we are able to meet again in person
3	<b>Matters Arising</b> None
4	<b>Amendments to the constitution</b> Item 6 in our constitution i)The committee shall consist of not less than 9 and not more than 18 members being The Honorary Officers in the preceding sub clause plus 14 committee members Proposed by Peter Fox seconded by Sue Talbot – duly passed Item 13 Annual General Meeting 9 (new paragraph ) A general meeting including the AGM should be held in person, but in exceptional circumstances may be held by electronic means agreed by the committee. This shall be set out in the advance notice of the AGM /EGM sent to members along with an explanation of the exceptional circumstances which require the AGM/EGM to be held by electronic means. For this purpose of this clause“Exceptional Circumstances” means circumstances which in the reasonable opinion of the Committee renders it impossible to hold a meeting in person. Proposed by Marie Scales Seconded by Pam Williams – duly passed
5	<b>Chair’s Report – Pam Williams</b> Who could possibly imagine what the year would hold for us one year ago? A threat was looming but we managed to hold our AGM and then .... LOCKDOWN! As the implications dawned, none of us could envision how we would be able to continue. No meetings, no study groups, no outings, no social gatherings, so what was left? Well, we are a pretty resilient group in U3A so, before long, plans were afoot to re-evaluate our communications and, against the odds, we have managed to maintain a thriving organisation that manages to keep in touch with most of its members. Of course we all miss the social interaction that U3A provided but we have had to shift our perspective to see what CAN be done. Some aspects have been maintained pretty much as they were, except they have provided a more vital role. The Website, managed by Roger Swaine, has provided an excellent means of communication and dissemination of information. Roger is also responsible for sending out the “mail-chimp” e-mails which keep us informed of news. The Newsletter, edited by Hazel Bell, has developed a new look but continues to keep us up to date with members and news. For those members who do not use the internet, paper copies are still available. But the big innovation, as we have had to adapt to what has become known as “the new normal”, is in

our use of ZOOM technology. We are incredibly grateful for the endeavours of Jill Longman and Ann Davies and advice from Tony Tutton, who have got to grips with the management of this to facilitate on-line meetings, coffee morning chat-rooms and the reinstatement of fortnightly speaker meetings. The fact that we had 140 links registered for the latest talk is a sign of its success. The fortnightly coffee mornings are also a good opportunity to just chat and see the faces on-line that we have missed. All this would not be possible without the commitment and willingness to try new things by the membership. So congratulations to you all for facing your fears about technology, getting the hang of it and, eventually, enjoying it!!

There have been some committee members who have been working incredibly hard during this last year to maintain our organisation. Marie Scales, our Secretary, keeps us all informed of developments and notices from the National Association and steers us through the administration necessary to conform to requirements of membership and our charitable status. She has also maintained the organisation of regular committee meetings and dealt with all the paperwork. (No mean feat!) Sue Talbot, our Treasurer, has played an invaluable role in dealing with our finances and the changing circumstances which this pandemic has caused. She is meticulous in her management of this and we simply don't know how we would manage without her. Peter Fox has maintained the membership list and contact with new and existing members to support the work of the Treasurer. He has also kept a "watching eye" over the numbers of members not in touch via e-mail. Jill Longman has managed the Speaker Programme, and much more besides. Joan Scales has taken over as Groups Co-ordinator and done much to keep in touch with what various study groups are doing to maintain their activities. It is another success story that so many groups have been able to continue their activities via Zoom and we are very grateful for the efforts of group leaders to facilitate this. Dianne Coxon has taken on the role of New Members secretary and we have managed to attract new members even in these circumstances. Penny Barratt, our Deputy Chair, has maintained contact with the Herts. Network, which ensures we are aware of developments in the wider U3A. I would like to give thanks here to ALL the committee members, who give freely of their time to support and advance the work of our local U3A. This report will be necessarily brief this year as it won't be "live" but I would like to thank all members for their continued support and commitment to this "lifelong learning" pledge we all make in this organisation and wish you all the very best for the coming year and hope that very soon we WILL meet again for fun and friendship.

6 **Treasurer's Report and Accounts**



**Annual Treasurer's Report  
AGM 2021**

Pleased to present the finance report for 2020.

Our Accounts have been audited this year and many thanks to Gail Maisey for her diligent work. The accounts report the facts and figures on income and expenditure and show we are in a healthy state financially and a good base for going on through the year.

	<p>The use of the debit card to pay for some purchases directly and on-line banking, so reducing the number of cheques issued, has facilitated easier, quicker, and a simpler payment method, including the payment of rentals of the venues for the various study groups from March 2020 onwards. This has proved very beneficial during 2020 when getting out to a bank was difficult for many.</p> <p>Subscriptions were £30 this year to prepare for proposed rental increases and any Brexit effect on prices generally. These had little effect in 2020, as unbeknown to us, was the devastating impact of COVID-19 was to have on our lives and the NHS.</p> <p>During 2020 we aimed to be as active as possible, paying for two Zoom licences to enable many on line meetings, to have fortnightly speaker meetings and continuing to update our website and communication with our members and continue to produce the termly newsletters. At the end of 2020 the subscriptions were reduced to £20 to reflect the unfortunate inactivity due to COVID-19 tier and lockdown restrictions. Our hopes were to resume activities after Easter but these effects still affect us here today. We will continue with Zoom meetings and be as active as possible during 2021.</p> <p>There has been a large range of the amounts paid as annual subscriptions. Also, where members have moved away or left for one reason or another and they have not cancelled their Standing Order (SO) with the bank. The banks will continue to pay out until the member changes or cancels their SO with their bank. Also, old SO are paying out incorrect amounts and members end up paying too little or too much. This still applies to 2021 where incorrect subscriptions are still received, as are those from past members. It is very important to check your standing order every year and to cancel when you leave the U3A.</p> <p>All portable electronic equipment was electrically tested and passed inspection at the end of March in line with Health and Safety regulations. It is hoped once we back to meeting up again we will review all our equipment and be in a good position to look to enhance our facilities.</p> <p>Hopefully we will be able to resume activities in towards the end/latter part of the year, maybe even see a Christmas Quiz, party and lunch!</p>	
7	<p><b>Appointment of Auditor</b> Gail Malsey Proposed by Sue Talbot seconded by Marie Scales – duly appointed</p>	
8	<p><b>Officers</b> i) Approval of Chair and Deputy Chair to continue their term of office – approved ii) Appointment of Treasurer – Sue Talbot Proposed by Roger Swaine Seconded by Hazel Bell – duly elected iii) Appointment of Secretary – Marie Scales Proposed by Sue Talbot Seconded by Penny Barratt – duly elected</p>	
9	<p><b>Committee</b> i) Joan Scales, Roger Swaine, Hazel Bell, Colin Slade, Peter Fox, Diane Coxon, David Charlwood, Steve Hall, Roy Madel and Ann Madel (Higgs). All approved to continue their terms of office ii) Appointment of Jill Longman and Ann Davies Jill Longman proposed by Marie Scales Seconded by Pam Williams Ann Davies Proposed by Joan Scales seconded by Peter Fox Both were duly elected.</p>	

10

**Any Other Business** – being none

**Meeting closed at 10.30**