

Minutes of Welwyn Hatfield u3a 36TH AGM

Held on Wednesday 15th March Ludwick Family Club

- 1. Apologies** A-M Booth, L.Curiel, R.Curiel, John McKinnon, Jill McKinnon, Jo Darvill, John Gardner, Joyce Hopkinson, Mike Dodding, Hazel Bell, Suzanne Brown, John Brown, Elizabeth King, Martin King, Jean Davis, Marion Cleveland, Corrie Godfrey, Judy Grant, Lyn Bunkel, Doug Bunkel
105 members present one person left prior to nominations for the 2023 committee

2. Minutes of 35th AGM – Approved and signed

3. Matters arising - none

4. Chair's report

Well It is the end of my first year as Chairman and I am pleased to report that our u3a is in great shape! Our membership is now back to pre-Covid levels (unlike many u3as), our groups are fully operational again, we have a full programme of Wednesday morning presentations with attendance almost back to pre-Covid levels and we even have two dances booked for this year!

Despite pressure from the Third Age Trust at the AGM in October, the u3as exercised their independence and voted down their proposals for annual subscription increases starting this year as well as some other plans they had. As a result of this and sound control of our finances by Treasurer Sue Talbot, we were fortunately able to avoid any subscription increase to our own members this year. Following the unsatisfactory outcome of the AGM, there are now plans in the pipeline for an advisory council from the u3as to advise the Third Age Trust, which should ensure our wishes are better incorporated into their policies.

During the past year our Groups have been very active across the board and the self funding of venues is now well established and working well. A number of trips have been organised and well supported, ranging from day trips to short holidays showing that we are now really getting back to normal. Thank you to all the Group Leaders for all they have done to make it such a successful year.

Our Wednesday morning presentations have also been a great success this year with a wide range of subjects being addressed and the number of attendees now regularly back to over 100. Thanks to Jill Longman and the programme team and all the volunteers who make Wednesday mornings run so smoothly. Most u3as meet just once a month, so our weekly meetings are exceptional and I believe are key to the continued success of our u3a.

Our first Open Day in September attended by the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield was a successful event, was very well attended and led to a number of new members. With the activity to promote it, it also improved our exposure in the local area and we intend to repeat it again this year.

In the Spring over 100 of us once again enjoyed a great evening, dancing to the sound of Tony Tutton's Simply 60's Band sustained by a very satisfying fish and chip supper. I am pleased to say

that we have secured dates for both a Spring and an Autumn Dance this year. Thanks to Tony for organising not only the dances but also a number of quizzes for other events during the year.

The Summer Term ended on a lovely sunny day where a number of us enjoyed soaking up the sun being entertained by our ukulele group and an enjoyable and testing quiz from Tony, based on events in our Queen's long reign. It proved to be a most enjoyable afternoon. Our ukulele group not only entertains us, but is also the public face of the u3a when it performs at outside events. Our thanks to them for all the time and effort they put in on our behalf.

At the end of the Autumn Term we had our annual Christmas Party where we had a Christmas singalong with the ukulele group and a Christmas quiz, whilst enjoying wine and snacks. This was followed a week later by our Christmas Lunch enjoyed by nearly 100 members.

None of this would have been possible without the continued commitment of our dedicated committee. I would like to thank them all for the time and effort they put in to keep Welwyn Hatfield u3a running smoothly and efficiently throughout the year. It has not been without its problems and setbacks, but they have all been overcome and resolved and we continue to grow and prosper.

As we begin the next term we have a number of Committee changes to deal with. Our Deputy Chair Ann Davies will be stepping down from her role, but I am pleased to say will be continuing as a committee member. Our long serving Secretary Marie Scales will also be leaving her role and the Committee as she has served her maximum permitted term as a Committee Member, and our Membership Secretary Peter Fox also has to leave the Committee having also served his full permitted term. I am pleased to say that Peter has agreed to continue as Membership Secretary.

I should like to thank Ann, Marie and Peter for their many years of service to the Committee and the huge contribution they have made and continue to make to our u3a.

I have mentioned some of our committee members, but there are a number of others who keep the wheels of our u3a turning, and deserve our grateful thanks for the time and work they put into it; our New Member Secretary Dianne Coxon, Groups' Coordinator Joan Scales, Risk Assessment Officer Colin Slade and the committee members who do all the other jobs that arise as needed, Dave Charlwood, Steve Dringer, Doreen Hall, Ann and Roy Madell, Dee Thomas and Pam Williams.

I must also thank our Webmaster, Roger Swaine and our Newsletter Editor

5 Treasurer's report and accounts - St

Pleased to present the finance report for 2022.

Our 2022 Accounts have been audited and many thanks go 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. A deficit is noted of £6,551 being due to paying for the study groups for the Spring term 2022. This was estimated to be around £6K at last year's AGM.

The Groups have settled into the role of self-funding and I would like to thank all the Group Leaders for taking on this extra work load, master minding their members' register and

payments received. Also, thanks to Joan Scales, our Group Co-ordinator, for working on venues, dates of meetings and invoice contacts. The support and team work has been invaluable which in turn helps with all the processing of the accounts that follows each month.

All this has increased the work load significantly and so we are now looking at new accounting package/software to help ease the amount of work required in both accounts and cross referencing all transactions, all due to the increase in the activity in both accounts. This is timely with the possibility of using Beacon as being the finance and membership reporting software used by many u3a branches. In the meantime, we are working on an Excel format that will carry us until a decision is made. We are working on splitting the role into two, one person on the main account and the other the Groups' account. This will take some learning time, along with Beacon, but give a much easier accounting system and aid the transition when there needs to be a new Treasurer in a years' time

Thank you to all members who have paid the correct annual membership this year but we are still receiving a range of the amounts of annual subscriptions again (£5, £10, £12.50). Also, still receiving subs where members have moved away or left for one reason or another. Many we have not been able to contact and they have not cancelled their Standing Order. These need to be resolved by the end of March as this affects our annual subscription to the Third Age Trust. This covers the annual insurance for the membership and those who have not paid the correct £20 will be classed as lapsed. We need to stress that it is very important to check your standing order every year and to cancel when you leave the U3A. Thanks must go to Peter Fox, as Membership Secretary for all his work spent sorting out all the members, the new, the lapsed and fully paid members.

We look forward to an active 2023, to continue to enjoy our weekly speaker meetings, to update our website and communication with our members and producing the termly newsletters. We continue to pay for one Zoom licence which enables many on line meetings. The groups are busy with their regular meetings, many groups are busy booking outings for the year ahead and we look forward to a Christmas Panto and Christmas lunch.

6.Appointment of auditor

Gail Maisey Proposed by S.Talbot and seconded by P.Williams

For 104 against 0 abstentions 0 - Gail Maisey duly elected

7.Officers

i)) Approval of S.Hall to continue as chairman - approved

ii) election of other officers

Treasurer S.Talbot is willing to be re-elected

S.Talbot proposed by S.Hall seconded by D.Coxon

For 104 against 0 abstentions 0 - S.Talbot duly elected

Deputy Chair D.Thomas proposed by S.Hall Seconded by S.Talbot

for 104 against 0 abstentions 0 - D.Thomas Duly elected

Secretary Adrienne Nix Proposed by S.Hall seconded by M.Scales

for 104 against 0 abstentions 0 - Adrienne Nix duly elected

8. Committee

i) Nicola Beynon proposed by M.Scales Seconded by A.Page

for 104 against 0 abstentions 0 - Nicola Beynon duly elected

ii) Ann Davies proposed by P.Fox Seconded by J.Longman

for 194 against 0 abstentions 0 - Ann Davis duly elected

iii) Eileen Bannister proposed by S.Talbot Seconded by P.Fox

for 104 against 0 abstentions 0 - Eileen Bannister duly elected

ii) Approval of the remaining committee members, P.Williams, R.Madell, A.Madell, D.Coxen, J.Longman, S. Dringer, T.Tutton, C.Slade, D.Charlwood, D.Hall and J.Scales to continue their term of office - Approved

9 Any Other Business

TAM – 3 members have raised the same issue that they have informed our u3a of their new contact details but magazine still being sent to old address. One person is in receipt of two copies as she is an associate member. One member has also been in contact with TAT who has referred them back to us. All 3 would like this issue resolved. We are trying to resolve this issue.

As there were no further issues the meeting was closed at 10.55