

AMBLESIDE AND DISTRICT U3A

Registered Charity No. 1050193

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 10 September 2018 at 2.15pm at the Marchesi Centre, Windermere

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks. Gwyn Jones (GJ) welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was quorate with an excellent turnout.

2. "The Ups and Downs of Fell Walking". GJ introduced Barbara Crompton, a member of the U3A Walking Group, who presented a very well-received slide show on "The Ups and Downs of Walking with the U3A". GJ thanked Barbara for her presentation.

3. Apologies for Absence were received from Vicky Harrison, Ann Beddall, Timothy Bartlett and partner, Anne Truelove, Andy and Jan Longdon, Katherine Angus, Steve Morris, Chris Traynier, Rita Stemp, Hanna Burke and Judith Flanagan.

4. Minutes of AGM 11th September 2017 The minutes were approved (proposed by Pat Campbell, seconded by Peter Truelove).

5. Matters Arising There were no matters arising.

6. Motions:

a) to change the clause in our constitution (section 2.1) which sets out the object of the Ambleside and District U3A GJ outlined the reasoning for this change (see appendix on last page). There is no need to mention 'Ambleside' within the clause as it is part of the 'Ambleside and District U3A' constitution. The object clause is written to be all-embracing to our activities, including mental and physical well-being activities which are conducive to life-long learning. The change was accepted (proposed by Ray Cross, seconded by Mike Green).

b) to increase inclusivity on the Committee (section 4.2 of the constitution) GJ outlined the reasoning for this change (see appendix). The change was accepted (proposed by Tony Lawrence, seconded by Jackie Truelove).

7. Chairman's Report for 2017-2018

GJ thanked everyone: committee, coordinators, volunteers, who contributes to the smooth running of the U3A. There can be a shortage of volunteers at times, perhaps due to being unsure of the requirements of the jobs, and he suggested that all the coordinators could arrange to have deputies to share the work and perhaps shadow the position for the future. There will be a vacancy on the committee and members were invited to contact him to observe the committee meetings.

GJ thanked Elizabeth Moreton (Membership Secretary) and Frances Green (Beacon Administrator) for their work on ensuring this U3A complies with the new General Data Protection Regulations – an onerous task – and everyone for their responses to his requests for the necessary permissions. He requested everyone to keep Elizabeth or Frances up to date with changes.

GJ announced that the committee had decided to use U3A money to upgrade the Marchesi sound system. Steve Morris has done a lot of work on researching and getting quotes and has offered to oversee the installation following his retirement from the committee.

Hanna Burke has also stepped down from the committee where she has given long service as Vice-Chair, Welfare Officer and arranger of coffee mornings and Christmas dinners.

GJ thanked Steve and Hanna for their service.

Christine Fisher has volunteered to take the job of web-site administrator from Steve and Jackie Truelove has volunteered to be the new Welfare Officer but neither will be a committee member. GJ asked everyone to let Jackie know of members who suffer illness or bereavement.

8. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts for 2017-2018 Nigel Nixon (NN) presented the accounts for the last year. There is a healthy amount in our accounts, some of which ought to be spent for the benefit of the members and thus we are funding an improvement to the Marchesi sound system. The number of paid-up members at the time the accounts were finalised was 344 and the costs of most of the interest groups were balanced at the end of the year. An apparent exception was the walking group where £975 of deposits had been paid into the account in the previous year but did

not appear in this year's account. There was also a query about the Local History group; this is covered in item 14 below. NN stated that the new Charity Commission rules will mean that slightly more detailed accounts will need to be presented to the Third Age Trust (due to our level of income); this will not entail much further work, simply a rearrangement of his presentation. The accounts were approved (proposed by Barbara Crompton, seconded by Mary Wane).

9. Subscription The level of subscription will remain at £12 for 2018/19.

10. Election of Officers

The nominations were as follows and the persons named were elected:

Chairman: Gwyn Jones (proposer Hanna Burke, seconder Sarah Traynier)
Secretary: Sarah Traynier (proposer Elizabeth Moreton, seconder Hilary Storey)
Treasurer: Nigel Nixon (proposer Sarah Traynier, seconder Hanna Burke)

11. Election of Committee

The nominations were as follows and the persons named were elected to the committee:

Membership Secretary: Elizabeth Moreton (proposer Nigel Nixon, seconder Gwyn Jones)
Committee member: Hilary Storey (proposer Nigel Nixon, seconder Elizabeth Moreton)
Committee member: Alan Hands (proposer Elizabeth Moreton, seconder Nigel Nixon)
Newsletter Editor: Di Burston (proposer Gwyn Jones, seconder Sarah Traynier)

There remains one vacancy on the committee.

12. Independent Examiner of Accounts:

NN proposed keeping the same examiner, Anthony Willey FCA, and this was accepted.

13. Chairman's Closing Remarks

This U3A will be running our annual coffee morning at the Marchesi Centre on Saturday 6 October and Hilary Storey would be grateful for offers of help and donations of raffle prizes and cakes.

The next General Meeting will be on Monday 8 October when the topic will be "The French Pyrenees to Blackpool" by Vic Heaney.

The Dulcet Tones singing group has not been successful within the U3A but will attempt to continue independently and is looking for members.

Dorothy Weardon would be grateful for volunteers to give the vote of thanks at General Meetings.

GJ asked for volunteers to help with running the General Meetings (please sign volunteer sheets).

14. AOB from Members

Dympna Pyle stated that the Writing group membership is down to 4 and asked for new members.

Joan Carew announced that the Local History group currently needs to be partially funded by our U3A due to the cost of hiring the Marchesi Centre and the cost of speakers. The cost of attending is being raised to £3 but she needs a deputy and also good, cheap speakers to attract members. On 17 September Pat Campbell will be talking about the history of the Royalty Theatre. Dorothy Weardon appealed to members to make the effort to become more self-supporting by researching and giving their own presentations; this request was supported by Jackie Truelove.

Hilary Storey announced that the Theatre Trips group will be going to a performance of The Nutcracker in Blackpool on 13 January and asked if the word could be spread to those members not on email.

Close of Meeting

GJ thanked everyone for attending and expressed the wish that everyone should enjoy the new season of activities.

Mike Green thanked GJ for all his hard work as Chairman during the last year.

The meeting closed at 15.35 with Tea and Biscuits.

APPENDIX

Motions for the Annual General Meeting, 2.15pm 10 Sept 2018

Item 6a) To change the clause in our constitution which sets out the objects of the Ambleside and District U3A

Recent decisions by the Charity Commission require that the Third Age Trust and all the individual U3As word their constitutions carefully to comply with Charity Law. There is no problem with our activities per se but the Third Age Trust recommends the following wording.

Section 2 of the current constitution states that our two objects are:

- *To advance the education of the public and in particular the education of middle aged and older people who are not in full-time gainful employment in Ambleside and its surrounding locality*
- *The provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare.*

The recommended form of words is:

The advancement of education and in particular the education of older people and those retired from full time work by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.

Item 6b) To increase inclusivity on the Committee

The committee would like to make the position of Newsletter Editor a committee post to ensure good communication with other post-holders.

Section 4 of our constitution deals with the committee:

*4.2. The committee shall consist of **eight** (8) members, including the Principal Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer), but excluding those who are co-opted.*

(a) The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Candidates who are willing to be put forward for such posts must be fully paid up members at the date of the AGM and agree to renew their subscription and thus continue in full membership for a minimum of 12 months from the 1st October following the AGM.

(b) Nominations for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and the Committee, duly agreed by the nominees, shall be proposed and seconded by paid-up members and delivered to the Secretary by a date prior to the AGM specified by the Committee.

(c) The newly elected Committee will appoint a Vice-Chairman from within its elected members.

*(d) Members may be co-opted onto the Committee provided that the total number of Committee members does not exceed **twelve** (12). They shall have full voting rights and their term of service shall expire at the next following AGM.*

The following change to 4.2 and new section 4.2(e) are proposed:

*4.2. The committee shall consist of **eight** (8) members, including the Principal Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer), **and the Newsletter Editor** but excluding those who are co-opted.*

4.2 (e) Other post-holders (ie. General Talks Organiser, Web Administrator and Beacon Manager) shall receive Committee Agendas and Minutes and shall be entitled to attend Committee Meetings when material relevant to their responsibilities is discussed.