

## **AMBLESIDE AND DISTRICT U3A**

Registered Charity No. 1050193

### **Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 14th September 2015 at 2 p.m. at the Marchesi Centre, Windermere**

**1. Chairman's Opening Remarks.** Mike Green (MG) welcomed everyone and reported that the meeting was inquorate. [The quorum of 50 was reached during item 4].

**2. Apologies for Absence** were received from Pru Bliss, Keith and Ann Browning, Margaret and Alex Burford, Joan Carus, Ann Colville, Rae and Kathy Cross, Bob Entwistle, Penny Henderson, David and Dorothy Hill, Shirley Hill, Bill and Christine Johnson, Steve and Jenny Morris, Peggy Robinson and Joan Spence.

**3. Minutes of AGM 8 September 2014** – no changes were proposed and the minutes were approved by the meeting after the quorum was reached.

#### **4. Matters arising**

- a) A lapel microphone had been purchased.
- b) Members requiring transport to general meetings should contact the welfare officer and if required for group meetings should contact the relevant co-ordinator
- c) No progress had been made with the acquisition of a stairlift for Ambleside Library but the downstairs room was available for meetings if required.

#### **5. Chairman's Report for 2014-15**

The Chairman gave a brief summary of matters covered on the new website, in particular the improvement in accessibility for disabled members, the success of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and the welcome addition to the committee of Steve Morris and Alan Robinson who have greatly improved publicity for the group. Of the 24 group co-ordinators, only two reported that they are struggling: Spanish and Family History. Three more new groups have been formed this year: Archaeology, Geology and Creative Writing. Some groups need new co-ordinators urgently and everyone was asked to consider taking on this role.

The Chairman went on to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the group including committee members, group co-ordinators and in addition Penny Henderson, Christine Riley, Di Burston and Sylvia Foreman for their hard work.

Looking forward, there is still a vacancy on the committee and the Chairman and 2 committee members retire next year including the Membership Secretary, where a certain level of computer skills are needed. A new Talks Organiser is also required in the spring. Volunteers to take on these and other roles were urged to come forward.

Whilst the membership stands at around 350, new members should be encouraged to ensure the growth and success of the group. The Open Day on 10<sup>th</sup> October will be a good opportunity to spread the word.

The chairman closed by thanking everyone for attending the AGM, in particular Jenny Carley, North West Region Trustee.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts for 2014-15**

The Treasurer reported that the accounts were shown in a new and simpler format. The balance sheet showed that a surplus of £451 took the total funds to £8627. From this amount, £6500 had been transferred from NatWest to Furness Building Society at 2.5% compared with 0.5% at the bank. A continued increase in subscription numbers, plus tax of £660 recovered from Inland Revenue, accounted for the surplus of £451. Some group costs had been adversely affected financially by the move from Ambleside Library to the Marchesi but the committee had agreed to subsidise increased costs for a further 12 months. The Treasurer reported a significant increase in group activities and thanked Group Co-ordinators for their consistent help.

The substantial amount of funds was queried by a member but the Treasurer confirmed the current policy is to reduce it. A question was put asking why U3A do not pay for group instructors, only for the speakers at

monthly meetings. The Chairman stated that recurrent costs have to be met by individual groups but that occasional capital costs for a one-off instructor/speaker might be approved by the committee if the request is made in writing. Jenny Carley (NW Regional Trustee) confirmed this was the case and that regular paid tutors/instructors would not be covered by U3A insurance.

The accounts were approved.

7. It was agreed that the subscription of £12 should remain unchanged for 2015/16.

### **8. Election of Officers**

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

Chairman: Mike Green (Proposer: Bill McCormack, Seconder: Alan Robinson)

Secretary: Vicky Harrison (Proposer: Mike Green, Seconder: Steve Morris)

Treasurer: Bill McCormack (Proposer: Frances Green, Seconder: Alan Robinson)

### **9. Election of Committee**

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

Membership Secretary: Frances Green (Proposer: Steve Morris, Seconder: Bill McCormack)

Committee Member: Hanna Burke (Proposer: Steve Morris, Seconder: Frances Green)

Committee Member: Steve Morris (Proposer: Frances Green, Seconder: Bill McCormack)

Committee Member: Alan Robinson (Proposer: Mike Green, Seconder: Vicky Harrison)

One committee position remains unfilled and under the constitution the committee is empowered to make an appointment.

10. Tony Willey was approved as Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2015-16.

### **Any Other Business**

a) Di Burston reminded members that the deadline for the next newsletter was 17<sup>th</sup> September.

b) Helen Jones invited people to volunteer to help with teas at the general meetings.

c) Christine Riley still has material lent for the Anniversary leaflet awaiting return and encouraged members to join the Art and Craft Group Have a Go at Painting session which they are organising.

d) Peter Jackson and Colin Whittle are holding a Music Group Sibelius Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Interested members should contact him as soon as possible.

### **11. Jenny Carley, North-West Region Trustee**

Jenny Carley began by presenting a card to the group in recognition of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The north west region covers a large area from Cumbria to Cheshire and has 98 U3A groups with 37,000 members and an 8.4% membership growth rate over the past 12 months. Jenny, as Trustee, is an ex officio member of the Regional Committee, representing the Third Age Trust. The Region holds an annual AGM, frequent study days and summer schools and these, together with £3.50 from each membership subscription, help to fund the costs of running the organisation.

The Trustee provides a vital link between the National Executive Committee and the region. Twice yearly network meetings keep each group up to date as do the regional newsletters which are available to any member, by email, on request. Apart from attending meetings, events and conferences throughout the region, the Trustee also serves on various NEC sub committees; Jenny carries out this role enthusiastically thanks to her belief in the ethos of U3A.

### **12. Chairman's Closing Remarks**

The Chairman thanked Jenny for her interesting and informative talk and encouraged members to take part in the North West Regional activities.

He reminded members that next year 3 new committee members and the Talks Organiser retire. Volunteers for all these positions are urgently required.

He concluded by thanking everyone for attending and announcing that the next local U3A activity is the Open Day at the Marchesi Centre on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October.