

MINUTES OF THE BADDOW & GALLEYWOOD U3A AGM
Monday 4th April 2022
Hybrid Meeting at Keene Hall and via zoom

1. Meeting Opening

Roy Brackely welcomed everyone to the meeting

Present on Zoom (30)

Loretta	Keith plus 1	Maurice
Alan	Ken	Stella
Di	Debbie	Betty
Allen	Hugh	Sara
Diana	Brian	John
Joan	Rita	Stuart
Roger	Val	Wendy
John	Shirley	Linda
Janet	Maggie	Rodger
John	Mike	

Present in person (22)

Sally	Susan	Anna
Roy	Ted	David
Wendy	Isobel	Valerie
John	Carolyn	Louise
Rollo	Trevor	Linda
Christine	Tony	Sue
Mary	Denis	
Aubrey	David	

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 29th March 2021

The minutes were reviewed and agreed

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Chairman's Report

A year ago we held the 2021 AGM and all attendees were on Zoom. By then Zoom was something we were having to get used to and some, even many, were getting quite proficient at it. Since then the tight restrictions have eased and many of us have taken the opportunity to get together again, perhaps still with some hesitation and some are still very wary of the potential of getting too close to a friend, neighbour or family member.

Today is, I believe, our first ever hybrid AGM with a good number here in Keene Hall and a number using Zoom at their, or someone else's home so they can be part of this AGM (and probably wanting to get on to the second part of the afternoon with our speaker). Being a first, we think we have got it right but we will know later if we really have. As signs in some shops say. "If we please you tell others, if we don't tell us". Like the whole basis of u3a, we want to learn from this.

At the last AGM we were still unable to enjoy the usage of our new venue, Keene Hall here in Galleywood. The hope then was for a return in June – it happened in September and has continued since. To date all have been held with attendance at Keene Hall AND transmitting via Zoom to those who for various reasons can't, or don't want to, attend Keene Hall in person. As I write this, I see that Maurice prophesied this in his report last year. We have made use of the Keene Hall facilities including screen and projector plus some of our own equipment making Keene Hall the equivalent of a Zoom site here so we are able to see each other and hear each other. Also we collaborated with Keene Hall to use their sound system both within the Hall and as part of the Zoom system.

Your Committee wants to facilitate the involvement of as many members as possible that want to be involved in the Main Meeting and this hybrid method seems to work best at the moment. Our ideal would be that all could come together at Keene Hall for the fellowship and togetherness it brings (and the tea and cake afterwards) but we realise that for some, that time is still sometime in the future. I should also say that with our speakers being on Zoom it has given us a much wider range of speakers to invite as distance is no object. The move from Great Baddow to Galleywood for these meetings was a necessity but we did wonder how it would affect the membership as a whole. Regular feedback from our membership secretary has shown that

membership is growing and several Interest groups, along with the Main gathering have benefitted. We have put advertising posters up in several premises around Galleywood and use all the modern technology that we can (and this is usually by knowing a man (or woman) who can..... understand it).

This AGM completes my first year as chair and a major part has involved the transition to the third way! Not the Third Age, as in Third Age Trust of which all u3as are part, but the change from us all meeting face to face as the first way then NOT meeting together at all but seeing the front of everyone and the back of nobody (a saving on haircuts and allowing us to dress only our top halves seeming to be the mainstays of this second way. The third way is navigating a way that mixes the two, the hybrid method, and I want it to be to use chemistry parlance, NOT a mixture where there is intermingling but still the ability to separate but a compound, where chemical energy joins the elements together to make them inseparable. To remove any "them and us" that may be there. Just to be an us, supporting one another, encouraging one another and thinking of the goodness of one another. It takes time and, like the chemistry, needs energy. Something we all have of various degrees. We can use what energy we have as we want to but there is something greater when using our energy to help others, it seems our own energy increases for our own good.

I'm sure I don't need to tell you that Baddow and Galleywood u3a cannot function without the efforts of many people. Some are known to you, some aren't. I don't want to embarrass anyone but as I hold the microphone and have the floor I will do.

Firstly I want to thank the Interest Group Co-ordinators. There are too many to name. Without you, your assistants and your deputies we would not function, attract new members or develop. Thankyou To the Committee there is a big thankyou from me to you all for your support over the year, especially when most of you didn't know me and I didn't know most of you. In no specific order,

Alan Cullen – our Vice chair, who may have been chair if he didn't have plans that did not come to fruition. A great sounding board (I won't spell 'board' out as Maurice did last year – you know what I mean). Thankyou Alan.

Ted Dyer – Treasurer - who took on the role when the previous treasurer left for pastures new. A big roll to step in to at any time. Thankyou Ted.

Debbie Collins – Business Secretary – who stepped down because of other commitments and literally is irreplaceable – so far. Her work has been split between other committee members but we really need someone to take on this role (or even job share). Her experience is still a great value to myself and the Committee. Thankyou Debbie.

Mary Cordeiro – Membership Secretary – who took over from **Loretta Riddel** and expected a job share which didn't materialise. A very intensive job. Thankyou to Mary and Loretta.

Wendy Burns - is our Interest Groups Coordinator, temporary (she hopes) Minute taker and treasurer of the No.2 account (the Interest Groups account) A job that takes time and is full on. Thankyou Wendy.

Sue Wells – as well as being our Social and Welfare Secretary, giving support to those who need support and those who are without internet access and cannot get to us. She has also returned to her furloughed role of ensuring we are fed and watered at main meetings and other events. Thankyou Sue.

Di Angel – a founder member of our u3a in 1999 is our Speaker Secretary. A job that has widened as speakers on Zoom can be in any part of the country, even the world, giving wide choice but needs more discernment to fit a larger number of available speakers into 12 speaking slots a year. Thankyou Di.

Tony Hollingsworth and Mike Whalley are our Committee members without portfolio but no less appreciated for the wisdom they give to the Committee. Thankyou Tony and Mike.

A mainstay outside the committee is **Maggie** - is our ever present Newsletter Editor. Without her there wouldn't be a Newsletter especially one of quality. I would just ask you, the members, to support her by giving her articles, jokes even letters to the Editor so she doesn't have to chase as much. Thankyou Maggie.

I would also like to thank our 2 retirees from last year. **Maurice** as our previous chair who I quickly realised is an impossible act to follow – so I haven't. but I willingly acknowledge he got our u3a to a position that made taking over the role so much easier. And **Hugh** as the ex-Treasurer and now our Equipment Officer (in other words stores all our property at his home and just waits for the time we can go through it and, probably, consign some to the home for old, broken and out of date equipment in the sky) Thankyou Maurice and Hugh. Lastly thanks to you, every member, as without you we wouldn't be here today.

Let's show our thanks to the Committee, the Interest Group co-ordinators and their teams, those mentioned and anyone else I've overlooked – My apologies. [CLAP]

In closing I just want to remind us of what the chair said last year and remains true today, that an organisation like ours needs to continue actively recruiting new, possibly younger, enthusiastic members and for this we need a wide range of Interest Groups and interesting monthly speakers and we are looking to "shared" groups between our local u3as when individual u3a interest in a subject is minimal.

5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The accounts had been circulated previously and the following points were drawn to our attention by Ted Dyer

- a) Income was down on the previous year, but expenditure up
- b) Expenditure exceeded income by £200
- c) Reasons for the increase in expenditure including
 - a. Printing costs
 - b. Zoom account
 - c. Postage and ancillary costsAll of which were due to keeping in touch with members during the pandemic
- d) Another expenditure item was the re-establishment fund to help groups after the pandemic
- e) Reserves last year were £11,000, and although there are no plans at present to increase the subscriptions, the committee is constantly monitoring the financial situation and may have to increase within the next couple of years.

6. Acceptance of Accounts and Appointment of Examiner

Roy asked that anyone with any objections to the adoption of the accounts should indicate their objections. Also that anyone with any objections to the appointment of John as Examiner of the accounts should indicate. There being no objections received the accounts were adopted and John was appointed as examiner of the accounts.

7. To consider any motions received

The motion proposed was

Due to a continued shortage of members willing to join the Executive Committee, the Committee proposes that the existing 3-term rule in the Constitution (clause 7vi) be suspended, as long as necessary, to allow Officers and members of the Committee a further term of office if they are willing to remain in post.

This was unanimously approved

8. Election of Executive Committee for 2022-2023

The current committee all agreed to stand and were elected for the year 2022-2023

Roy reiterated the need for new committee members and asked interested members to chat to current committee members. There would be opportunities to observe meetings and the committee can co-opt new members during the year

9. Any other business

None

10. Date of Next AGM

3rd April 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14:40

Signed as a true record.....(Chairman