

## MINUTES OF THE BADDOW & GALLEYWOOD U3A AGM

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

Hybrid Meeting at Keene Hall and via zoom

### 1. Meeting Opening

Roy Brackley welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that it was the 25<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Baddow and Galleywood u3a

There were 52 people present in person and 10 on Zoom

### 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022

The minutes were reviewed and it was mentioned that there had been a spelling error with Roy's name under section 1

### 3. Matters Arising

There were none.

### 4. Chairman's Report

*A year ago, we held our first AGM live, here at Keene Hall, after Zooming here, there, and everywhere but staying in the safety of our own homes. We have continued month by month here at Keene Hall with a growing attendance here and less on Zoom but we continue Zoom as a service to those who cannot attend here.*

*This year has also seen the reintroduction of speakers live here at Keene Hall (I initially wrote 'live speakers' but realised we don't have any of the other type!). It certainly feels more real than zooming did. However, it has shown up a few problems for those who watch on Zoom as our camera doesn't cope well with the moving target of a speaker or, as recently, where a slide projector is used by a speaker. We are working on ways to improve this service.*

*We will all have memories of 2022, some will be happy, some will be sad. Some are personal to us, some relate to family and some, such as our involvement with Baddow and Galleywood u3a, that have given us new experiences and new friendships. I just want to remind us of a couple of activities that reflect our cross-group nature - and that's not the group that is cross!*

*In August 2022 we began the month with a very successful Garden Party at the Galleywood Heritage Centre. I believe I can say "a good time was had by all" and people still talk about it. Also, later in August, a coach load of us went over the river to visit the lovely town of Rochester and then the majority went to visit the Medway Queen, a smallish vessel, called up in 1940 as part of the armada going to the beaches of Dunkirk to help with the mass troop evacuation. It was one of the first to reach the Dunkirk beaches and one of the last to leave after 7 return trips. My thanks to the organisers of these events. I can also say that a trip is being organised for later this year to the De Havilland Aircraft Museum and Waltham Abbey. More details to follow.*

*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.*

*I want to thank the Interest Group Co-ordinators. There are too many to name. Without you, your assistants and deputies we would not function, attract new members, or develop. Also, thanks go to those who, on Sue Wells retirement from the role, have taken up the organisation and provision of refreshments here each month.*

*As I have begun this year as Chair of our brilliant Committee and organisation, I offer another big thankyou to you all for your support over the last two- and a-bit years. Your committee has met month by month and discussed and carried out a lot of work. I mention them all now.*

*I begin with **Mike Whalley** who took over the reins of Business Secretary when Debbie stepped down but who died in post.*

**Alan Cullen** – our Vice chair who is a great sounding board and hard worker in so many ways.

**Ted Dyer** – our Treasurer – I know this is a major task.

**Debbie Collins** – ex-Business Secretary – who stepped down because of other commitments then stepped up again to produce the Minutes and is still irreplaceable but does want to go.

**Mary Cordeiro** – Membership Secretary – who expected a job share which didn't materialise. A very intense job.

**Loretta Riddell** – now our Interest Groups Co-ordinator. As the number of groups grow in number the work just keeps on growing.

**Wendy Burns** - is our treasurer of the No.2 or Interest Groups account. A job that takes time and concentration.

**Sue Wells** –our now retired Social and Welfare Secretary, giving support to those who need. She also returned to her furloughed role of ensuring we are fed and watered at main meetings and other events. Hard to replace but we are trying.

*Di Angel – a founder member of our u3a in 1999 and our Speaker Secretary. A job that needs discernment to fit a number of available speakers into 12 speaking slots a year that will satisfy most of us most of the time.*

*Tony Hollingsworth is our Committee members without portfolio but no less appreciated for the wisdom he give to the Committee.*

*A mainstay outside the committee is Maggie Nutt - our ever-present Newsletter Editor. Without her there wouldn't be a quality Newsletter but she can't do that without you, our members supporting her by giving her articles, jokes even letters to the Editor so she doesn't have to chase as much. In fact we have introduced 2 roaming reporters who may be approaching you at any time!!*

*Lastly thanks to you, every member, as without you we wouldn't be here today.*

*Can we please show our thanks to the Committee, the Interest Group co-ordinators, their teams, those already mentioned and to anyone else I've overlooked – My apologies You are included.*

*This has been a difficult year for the Committee in one respect and that is that some Committee members wanted to step down to take a rest and do other things. Many of you remember that in the time of pandemic we asked, and you agreed, to allowing longer periods of service. Some Committee members did this and need a break. Numerous appeals for committee members drew a blank and we considered what we could do, even if we would need to close. However, the good news is that later in the agenda we will see some new nominations for the Committee that allow us to function in 2023-2024 BUT we still need more. Talk to your Committee, ask to visit a committee meeting and put your name forward.*

*In closing, I remember saying last year, on behalf of the Committee. "If we please you tell others, if we don't tell us". This still very much applies although I think telling others that you have been pleased by them is an encouragement*

## **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) For the last two years we have finished with a deficit.
- b) Our subscription income has not increased.
- c) Our expenditure has increased due to Hall hire cost increases, which are ongoing, and to the Garden Party which went over budget, but was a one-off event and very worthwhile
- d) Our reserves have dipped below £10,000.

Ted predicted that the next financial year would also show a deficit and urged the members to accept the motion to proposed later in the meeting regarding an increase in subscriptions.

There were two questions about the accounts:

1 – (CAN'T REMEMBER WHO ASKED) – is there a target for reserves?

There is no target, but the Charity Commission suggests a maximum figure based on a proportion of turnover.

2 – (Allen) – are the accounts available on the website?

Yes.

The accounts were accepted unanimously.

Ted asked that if members paid money into the u3a account that they should include a short description of what the money is for, as well as their name.

## **6. Re-appointment of Examiner for the Accounts – John Weir**

Roy Brackley proposed John Weir to be Examiner of the accounts. Seconded by Loretta Riddel. Unanimously Agreed.

## **7. Motion proposed by the Committee:**

The annual membership fee for Full Members of the Baddow and Galleywood u3a in 2024 is increased from £9 to £12, and for Associate Members from £6 to £8. Fees paid by new members joining after 1st October cover membership for the following year.

## **8. Motion proposed by the Committee:**

The Third Age Trust magazine Third Age Matters is no longer included as part of membership of the Baddow and Galleywood u3a, commencing in 2024. The magazine is available to members as an option costing £3.50 per year.

Alan Cullen presented some slides to fully explain the reason for the increase. Key points included:

- In 2018 the subscription had been £12 and despite the committee's best efforts to spend money, we continued to have a surplus.
- In 2019 the subscription was decreased to £9 but because of Covid and reduced expenditure, the surplus remained until things opened up again in 2022.
- In the last financial year the surplus decreased due to increased expenditure, which can only be predicted to carry on increasing with the current financial uncertainties.

The committee considered all the above points and made their decision to present the motions to increase subscription based on the following premises

- To minimise the burden on members, especially at a time of high inflation
- To ensure adequate reserves so that a sudden expenditure can be met
- To enable people to opt out of receiving the Third Age Magazine without having to pay for it
- To be aware of the fact that we are making a decision now which will not come into effect for another 9 months.
- To be aware that however much it is thought through, there are many unknowns such as inflation, capitation to the Third Age Trust (currently £4)
- To be aware that the price increase may deter some members from re-joining.

It is hoped that by setting the subscription figures for 2024 as

Full members: £12

Full members with Third Age Magazine: £15.50

Associate members: £8

it will cover all the premises above and not be necessary to readdress this issue for at least 3 years.

One member questioned the level of subscription of other u3as. Exact figures were not known but it seems that within the Essex area they range from £12 to £30.

The motions as above were combined into one proposed by Roy Brackley and seconded by Linda and were agreed unanimously.

The members who pay by standing order were reminded that they can make the changes now.

**9. Election of Committee for 2023-2024** Note that the following motion was approved at the 2022 AGM: *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.*

The following committee members were standing for re-election for the term.

Roy Brackley, Wendy Burns, Alan Cullen, Ted Dyer, Loretta Riddel

The following committee members will offer handover support.

Di Angel, Mary Cordeiro

The following members of the u3a were nominated to serve on the committee.

David Massey, Sue Nelson, Tony Nelson.

The election of all these members was proposed by Roy Brackley and seconded by Debbie Collins and agreed unanimously.

## **10. Any Other Business**

None

**11. Next AGM – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024** [*post meeting note: now 17<sup>th</sup> April with change of venue to the Millenium Centre*]

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 15:00

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