

BECCLES u3a 8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE & TIME	Weds Aug 17 th 2022 at 10.15am [*postponed from Weds July 20 th 2022]
PLACE	Beccles Public Hall, 6 Smallgate, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9AD
PRESENT	Chairman – Graham Jermyn (GJ)
MINUTES	Diane Dungate

NB

Copies of the Agenda, Treasurer's Report, Annual Trustees' Report and Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed to all members by email or by post in advance of the meeting giving all members time to read and prepare questions.

Item	Raised By	Comments
1 Apologies for Absence	GJ	<p><u>Executive Committee:</u> Steve Blackburn (SB) / Carole Moore (CM) / Jim Savage (JS) / Lyn Woods (LW)</p> <p><u>Membership:</u> Lesley Blackburn (422) / Eileen Faure (733) / Susan Oglesby (201) / Ian Smart (770) / Francis Fisher (447) / Valerie Jones (425) / Valerie Payne (No 382) / Shirley Mead (No 100)</p> <p><i>Points Arising</i> None</p>
2 Minutes of previous meeting 16.06.21 and matters arising	GJ	<p>The minutes of last year's AGM (2021) had been posted on the Beccles U3A website for one year then resent by email or by post with this year's documents</p> <p><u>proposal: to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</u></p> <p><i>prop by:</i> Alec Hillier (No 26) <i>sec by:</i> Lacey Baxter (No 550)</p> <p><u>Approval by the membership of the minutes as a true record of the meeting</u></p> <p>in favour: for: unanimous against: 0 abstentions: 0</p> <p>The minutes having therefore been approved, were then signed by GJ.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising</i> None</p>
3 Annual Report of the Trustees	GJ	<p>This report was distributed to all members in advance of this meeting. GJ talked through both the positive and challenging aspects of what had been a busy year as Beccles u3a emerged from the Coronavirus pandemic</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BECCLES U3A AGM 20th July 2022 (*see head of minutes) BEECCLES U3A TRUSTEE REPORT 2021/22</p> <p>I am pleased to be able to present this year's trustee report in person. As Ronnie Barker might have said in 'Open All Hours', it's been "a funny old year". The impact of Coronavirus in its various guises which hit everyone so hard in 2020/21, continued into this year. There seemed to be many false dawns in being able to get back together and meet socially which is one of the underlying principles of u3a. As we went into June and July, a few groups started to meet in person and we held our first post-lockdown meeting in July and have continued ever since.</p> <p>This report briefly sets out the year from April 2021 to March 2022.</p> <p>Membership We began the year with 590, having experienced the usual reduction at renewal time before the membership grew during the year to 690 which happens every year.</p> <p>Once again we had to cancel our normal Renewals Morning in March which has always been a wonderful opportunity to see and chat to members. To make it easier for</p>

	<p>members and our Membership Secretary, we introduced an electronic membership renewal form. This proved to be very popular with 200 members using it. It is encouraging to see such a large number of our members using technology in this way.</p> <p>We continued and indeed improved upon our sound communications base by increasing the frequency of newsletters emailed to members or posted to those without an email address. Angela Williams and Felicity Hillier updated our website which includes everything that anyone would want to know and find out about Beccles u3a. It is an excellent reference point for groups, monthly meetings and events as well as the latest news. To complement that, Jo Howarth set up a Facebook page for members so that they could keep in touch with day to day happenings and exchange comments on groups and speakers. We also introduced a few drop-in sessions at the Public Hall and combined these with group set-up sessions.</p> <p>Committee Fortunately, at the 2021 AGM we had only 1 committee member standing down; Carole Moore, our Treasurer was retiring after 6 years in post, a tremendous contribution to Beccles u3a and the community. We were very fortunate that Lyn Wood stepped forward to take on the role. Despite no experience of such a position, she has settled in extremely well. Other committee members had completed their 3-year period but due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic and the lack of volunteers, they all agreed to stand for a further year. This was very helpful at the time but has, of course, created a problem for 2022/23.</p> <p>Our priorities focussed upon getting through the pandemic with a combination of virtual meetings or actual meetings where they could be managed safely.</p> <p>Monthly Meetings We started 2021/22 continuing our pattern of the normal monthly meeting on a Weds screened through Youtube with an additional evening meeting. The screenings were popular initially but viewings dropped off over the following few months.</p> <p>Speakers using the Youtube platform included; *Dr Richard Hoggett on 1,000 years of St Edmund’s Abbey *Andrew Baker on the Profumo Affair *Mary Smith with a lovely talk on A School-girl’s War *Bernard Lockett taking us through the heritage of Gilbert & Sullivan *John Hope on Time Through The Ages *Tony Diamond taking us through the life of John Betjeman together with the AGM *Tamsin Wimshurst on the extraordinary David Parr house in Cambridge. Tamsin was our final evening speaker as we prepared to resume talks in the Public Hall.</p> <p>Our first speaker on returning to the Public Hall was local celebrity, Robert Tilney talking about his experiences on ‘Antiques Roadshow’. This was followed by; *Ian McClachlan on GI Brides *Charlie Haylock and the film ‘The Dig’ *Terry Waite talking about Creative Isolation *Mark Mitchels digging into Sutton Hoo *The Christmas extravaganza hosted by Mu Gurbutt and Lacey Baxter and supported by Chanter’s Jigge *Richard Symes revealing the history of Dunwich Heath *Wendy Smith and her career as a Wimbledon Linesperson and ending a busy year, *Sally Dearman with The Householder Path To Enlightenment. To conclude, a tremendous range of speakers sourced by Mu Gurbutt.</p> <p>Despite the problems of the pandemic, the meetings were well attended and when necessary, measures were put in place to protect our members as much as possible.</p> <p>Events Events were the activities hardest hit for Beccles u3a and its members during the pandemic. It was difficult to arrange anything and members were reluctant to and at times, prohibited from using coaches to travel anywhere. As the year covered by this</p>
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	<p>report comes to a close, Irene Squirrell is arranging some trips but members still appear reluctant to join them. Hopefully, this will change as time passes. We have formed a liaison with Lowestoft u3a to try to increase the range of trips available to members of both u3as. This will take some time to establish.</p> <p>Groups Led by Pippa Holliday, our team of 5 Group Support leaders have helped groups with any issues arising, encouraged a higher level of communication with existing groups and facilitated the set-up of new ones.</p> <p>Once again, the emphasis has been upon supporting groups and trying both to retain and build up their membership through publicity on the website, newsletters and the monthly meetings. We have endeavoured to support groups through grants for Zoom or other memberships and Steve Blackburn has coordinated this.</p> <p>Unfortunately, some groups were unable to survive the pandemic and closed but hopefully, they will re-form when normal life has settled. Where convenors have come forward to look after them, a number of new groups have been established such;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Tai Chi *Spanish Conversation *Members On Their Own (MOTO) *Jewellery Making *Rummikub <p>Some other groups could have started up had a convenor come forward.</p> <p>Not only do we need volunteers to sit on the committee, we also need RUGs (members of the Really Useful Group), convenors for new groups and volunteers to help as required throughout the year. We welcome constructive comments on any matter relating to Beccles u3a especially groups, visits, events and monthly meetings.</p> <p>On Sept 6th 2021 at Beccles Public Hall we held a Convenors Meeting with a buffet provided by external caterer. Convenors, Co-Convenors and volunteers attended. Committee members were dispersed around the tables holding a question and answer feedback session which was very successful. Another Convenors Meeting has been scheduled for Sept 30th 2022.</p> <p>Finances The Treasurer's Report on our finances is covered under item 4 of this agenda. The year began with a total balance of £20,422.86 and ended in Mar 2022 with a total balance of £21,061.69. These figures reflect the successful introduction of the electronic renewals form. As a year progresses our outgoings are generally greater than our income but our financial position is currently healthy. Gift Aid is a significant contributor to our funds and we extend a big thank you to Carole, our former Treasurer for ploughing through all the paperwork to ensure that we recovered 25% of qualifying fees from HMRC.</p> <p>The Group Grant system continues to prove popular and a further £362.42 has been paid out. The Covid-19 Group Recovery Grant paid out £665.75 during the year.</p> <p>External Representation The Suffolk And District Network of u3as has not met since the start of Covid-19. Our Chair and Business Secretary met with representatives of Lowestoft u3a to help it continue.</p> <p>Thank You To; Convenors, Co-Convenors and members who enable groups to function. Mary Wright (Business Secretary), Jim Savage (Membership Secretary and Janet Lloyd (Groups Support 3) for 4 years of service to Beccles u3a. Pippa Holliday, Pauline Kettless, Rosemary Kerridge and Steve Blackburn for their work on the committee as Groups Supports. Lyn Wood for taking on the role of Treasurer and keeping our finances in order. Mu Gurbutt for continuing to source a wide range of excellent speakers. Glenys Westmacott and the team who continued to organise and provide</p>
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		<p>refreshments at monthly meetings and other events such as Renewals.</p> <p>Angela Williams (Webmaster) who continues to manage our website and Felicity Hillier who has provided greatly valued assistance.</p> <p>Jo Howarth for setting up and promoting our Facebook page and to both her and Angela Williams for administering it.</p> <p>Graham Wilkinson, Rosemary Kerridge, Gill Ryan and Janet Steven for acting as Meeters & Greeters at monthly meetings.</p> <p>Irene Squirrell for continuing to manage all our trips and to those who support her.</p> <p>Sally Greenhill for continuing to look after our projector, DVD player and speakers.</p> <p>Ryan Takman for organising the technology to provide Youtube meetings during the pandemic and electronic forms.</p> <p>The Management of Beccles Public Hall who continue to provide our venue and its facilities and who are flexible in helping us operate there.</p> <p>Diane Dungate, our Minutes Secretary who continues to produce excellent minutes and make sense of what we say.</p> <p>Finally to the phone buddies who, during lockdown helped members keep in touch when they could not meet in person. Although they are able to meet again, those people are now friends and that is what u3a is all about.</p> <p>If I have missed out anyone, I sincerely apologise.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE REMEMBER We are all simply volunteers AND DON'T FORGET <i>'By the members, for the members'</i> is the u3a's mantra so do please come forward and do your bit in any way you can.</p> <p>Graham Jermyn Chair Beccles u3a July 2022</p>
4 Treasurer's Report And Accounts	CM	<p style="text-align: center;">BECCLES U3A TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Summary of receipts and payment for the period 01.04.21 - 31.03.22</p> <p>A copy of the Treasurer's Report produced by LW was distributed by both email and post to all members with time to read before today's online meeting. This is the first report prepared by LW after taking up her role as Treasurer.</p> <p><u>Approval of the Treasurer's Report by the membership</u> <i>Prop by:</i> Rosemary Kerridge (No 316) <i>Sec by:</i> Janet Lloyd (No 718) <i>in favour:</i> unanimous <i>against:</i> 0 <i>abstentions:</i> 1</p> <p><i>Questions Arising</i> None</p>
5 To Approve the Appointment / Continued Appointment of an Examiner of Accounts	GJ	<p>The accounts for the year 2021/22 were carried out by Newman & Co, 7 Hungate, Beccles, NR34 9TT Newman & Co were accepted by the executive committee as Examiner of Accounts for Beccles U3A 2021/22</p> <p><u>Approval of Newman & Co as Examiner of Accounts by the membership</u> <i>Prop by:</i> Paul Gurbutt (No 270) <i>Sec by:</i> Irene Squirrell (No 10) <i>in favour:</i> unanimous <i>against:</i> 0 <i>abstentions:</i> 0</p>
6 Election of Executive Committee Members	GJ	<p>Officers of the Executive Committee 22/23</p> <p>Pippa Holliday - Chair Vice Chair - vacancy Business Secretary - Julia Warnes Treasurer - Lyn Wood Membership Secretary - Carole Moore Programme Secretary - vacancy Social Media Secretary - Jo Howarth Groups Supports;</p>

		<p>Jo Howarth (Grps 1) Pauline Kettless (Grps 2) Barbara Lyons (Grps 3) Rosemary Kerridge (Grps 4) Steve Blackburn (Grps 5) & Accessibility <u>Proposal to approve the Officers of the Executive Committee</u> <i>prop by:</i> Paul Gurbutt <i>sec by:</i> Janet Lloyd <u>Approval of the Officers of the Executive Committee</u> <i>in favour:</i> unanimous <i>against:</i> 0 <i>abstentions:</i> 0</p>
7 Constitutional Changes	GJ	None
8 Proposed Motions	GJ	None
9 Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Members of the Executive Committee	GJ	<p>Formal thanks were given to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Janet Lloyd for 4 years of service as committee member and Group Support 3 during the especially difficult period of lockdown. *Glynn (Jim) Savage for 4 years of excellent service as Membership Secretary and last year's Vice Chair. Jim introduced Mailchimp and electronic membership forms. *Mary Wright for 4 years of service as Business Secretary. The 'phone buddy' scheme was her initiative. *Mu Gurbutt for over 7 years of service as Programme Secretary. <p>Pippa Holliday the new Chair, then gave thanks to Graham Jermyn for 4 years as Chair of the committee especially in keeping both the committee and the membership in touch during the challenges of lockdown. He has been the 'Mr Motivator' whose ideas were behind everything we have enjoyed in the last few years.</p>
10 AOB		None

There being no other business, the Annual General Meeting ended at 10.45am.

It was followed by a talk delivered by David Bussey on George Skipper, Architect of Norwich Arcade and other buildings

END OF MINUTES