

BECCLES U3A FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE & TIME	Weds June 19th 2019 at 10.15am
PLACE	Beccles Public Hall, Smallgate, Beccles
PRESENT	Chairman – Graham Jermyn (GJ)
	Members on the AGM table: Mary Wright (Business Secretary) Carole Moore (Treasurer) plus 130 members in attendance in the hall
MINUTES	Mary Wright (MW)

**Copies of the Agenda were distributed to all members by email or post in advance of the meeting.
Copies of the Treasurer's Report were placed upon seats giving all present time to read before the start of
the meeting**

Item	Raised By	Comments
1 Apologies for Absence	GJ	<u>Executive Committee:</u> Paul Gurbutt (270), Mu Gurbutt (271), Jill Wells (331) <u>The membership:</u> Diane Dungle (14), Phil and Jane Perry (114), Kathleen Filby (123), Judy LaBanc (360)
2 Minutes of previous meeting (20.6.18) and Matters arising	GJ	The minutes of last year's (2018) AGM had been posted on the Beccles U3A website for one year since the last AGM and printed copies were placed on all seats at the AGM <i>proposal:</i> to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. <i>prop by</i> Vicki John (245) <i>sec by</i> Janet Lloyd (718) The minutes having therefore been approved, were then signed by GJ. <i>Matters Arising</i> None
3 Annual Report of the Trustees	GJ	GJ read out his following report to all present I am pleased to be able to present this year's trustee report and with 130 here today means that we are legal! Membership of Beccles U3A now stands at 652 members. Our membership typically dips around 10% at the beginning of the year when some members do not renew for whatever reason. We then pick up new members throughout the year. In March 2019 we peaked at 732 members with 72 groups The Renewals morning in March again proved to be very successful. Members renewed in person in good numbers taking the pressure off the March and April monthly meetings. Computer Confidence and Latin hosted stands and hopefully we can encourage more groups to do so next year. All this requires an enthusiastic, dedicated committee to manage our U3A. It was very difficult to attract new Committee members at this time last year but several pleas brought forward a number of volunteers who ensured that we could continue to operate a forward looking and vibrant U3A. We are still looking for new committee members as one of our Group Support people is resigning together with our Programme Co-ordinator who organises all our speakers and other events. Ideally we would have a trickle of new Committee Members each year so we could maintain continuity. Beccles U3A, in common with all U3As is only successful and sustainable if members are willing to offer their services. A U3A thrives because all its members are

	<p>willing to pull their weight and put in as much as they get out. A U3A does not provide services for its members – members provide them for each other.</p> <p>After this AGM we will be down to 10 committee members.</p> <p>If we had 14, roles could then be shared and a good understanding of running Beccles U3A could be maintained when people stand down.</p> <p>If you are interested please approach a committee member to discuss further, try a taster session or perhaps join the Really Useful Group (RUG for short) and become members who can be called upon at various times to assist the committee with projects or help at the Monthly meeting.</p> <p>Once the new Committee settled down last year we agreed that we didn't want to start a mass recruitment drive but did want to make ourselves available to lonely people. We also wanted to improve communications within the U3A and with the external community. To pursue these aims we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the production of the newsletter to 6 issues a year. • Distributed the newsletter to some outlets in the town. • Introduced welcome meetings for new members. • Started to work with the NHS Social Prescribing agenda so that lonely people can be signposted to the U3A. • Delivered presentations about the U3A role in the community • Held discussions with the former Mayor of Beccles about the co-ordination of all the community groups within the Beccles area. <p>Communications though are two way. 15% of our members are contacted by post or telephone or word of mouth at the monthly meetings. 85% of our members have an email address which we use to contact them. Unfortunately, many members do not reply to those emails so we have to chase. If members are comfortable with emails then please have the courtesy to respond. If you are uncomfortable with IT then let us know. We have a computer confidence group which can help. We may also be able to do other things to support people and would welcome suggestions.</p> <p>Monthly Meetings</p> <p>The Monthly Meetings have been well attended averaging 120 members and guests, with the Christmas meeting peaking at 181.</p> <p>The Monthly Meeting is an opportunity for members to view groups and events on offer, to be updated on any latest news, to network and to enjoy listening to a speaker.</p> <p>Mu Gurbutt our Programme Co-ordinator has again delivered up a full and varied programme of speakers who have been very interesting and entertaining.</p> <p>These included</p> <p>Suffolk Witches, Lasers and how they work, a magistrates life on the bench and fraud protection.</p> <p>In September, Adrian Brown explored his musical background, achievements and his links with Waveney Sinfonia.</p> <p>Mu successfully introduced a new approach of interviewing our November speaker, Richard Hughes, from Norwich Assembly House where a cookery school is his latest venture.</p> <p>The December meeting took the form of a members-only party with a delicious Christmas-themed buffet plus plenty of entertainment.</p>
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	<p>The lesson we have learnt is that a potential new group needs an identified convenor before the set up session is organised.</p> <p>At the end of last year the committee introduced a grant of up to £75.00 for groups where it would be beneficial and meet the objective of self help learning and education. We have paid out £789.24 in response to 14 applications</p> <p>As well as welcoming people to join the committee, or become a RUG or a convenor or help in any way possible, we welcome any suggestions or comments, positive or negative, on anything regarding Beccles U3A including Groups, Events/ Visits and monthly meetings.</p> <p>Remember this is your U3A, help shape it and make things happen.</p> <p>You can make contact with the committee in person at the monthly meeting or by email via the contact page on our website, or via the Suggestion box at the monthly meetings or on our website or by ringing our phone number which is well advertised.</p> <p>Two of our members, to my knowledge, published books this year – Barry Darch – Beccles Through Time and Ivan Crane – 10 walks in Norfolk and Suffolk.</p> <p>The Nimble Fingers group once again decorated the U3A tree at the Hungate Church Festival of Trees and continue to surpass themselves each year. The Group will decorate the tree again this year and they tell me that they already have big plans.</p> <p>We held two Convenors meetings during the 2018/19 membership year. We changed the venue to Beccles Public Hall and enjoyed buffets provided by external caterers. The invitation was extended to include anyone who volunteers to help Beccles U3A. The September meeting involved a presentation from the Vice Chair on a range of issues that convenors needed to be aware of. The March 2019 meeting involved a performance from our own Madrigal singers, a Q and A session with the Chair and Business Secretary and a visit from the then Beccles Mayor.</p> <p>External Representation</p> <p>The Chair attended the Third Age Trust Conference and AGM last August. It provided a very good networking opportunity with some useful ideas and pointers for the future.</p> <p>Committee members attended meetings of the Suffolk and District Network of U3A's during the year at Haverhill U3A and Hadleigh U3A. Again useful networking opportunities.</p> <p>Finally, a Thank You to all the people that make Beccles U3A work.</p> <p>The Convenors, Co Convenors and the members who enable groups to function.</p> <p>To Glenys Westmacott and the team who organise and facilitate refreshments at the monthly meetings and other events such as Renewals.</p> <p>To Angela Williams (Web Master) who manages our website and Felicity Hillier who has provided much valued assistance. To the Communications sub group involving RUGs Susan Shannon, Jenny Steer and Vicki John together with Mary the Business Secretary and myself in putting together the bi-monthly newsletter and planning external communications.</p> <p>Vicki John who reports on our speakers each month and who produces articles for the local press to inform members and potential members of the details of the monthly meetings.</p> <p>Peter Westmacott for managing registration at the Monthly Meetings.</p>
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4 Treasurer's Report And Accounts	CM	<p>BECCLES U3A TREASURER'S REPORT <u>Summary of receipts and payment for the period 01.04.18 - 31.03.19</u></p> <p>A copy of the Treasurer's Report produced by CM was distributed to all members with time to read before the meeting began. GJ asked for the Accounts to be approved <i>Prop by:</i> Lacey Baxter (550) <i>Sec by:</i> Alec Hillier (26) <u>Approval of the Treasurer's Report by the membership</u> <i>vote by show of hands</i> <i>in favour:</i> unanimous <i>against:</i> none <i>abstentions or objections:</i> none</p>
5 To Approve the Appointment / Continued Appointment of an Examiner of Accounts	GJ	<p>The accounts for the year 2018/19 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 2019/20 <u>Acceptance of Newman & Co as Examiner of Accounts by the membership</u> <i>Vote by show of hands</i> <i>in favour:</i> unanimous <i>against:</i> none <i>abstention:</i> ;none</p>
6 Election of Executive Committee Members	GJ	<p>Officers of the Executive Committee The following officers, elected in 2018, are prepared to continue in post: Chairman - Graham Jermyn (703) Vice Chairman - Paul Gurbutt (270) Business Secretary - Mary Wright (446) Treasurer - Carole Moore (181)</p> <p>GJ asked for confirmation of acceptance of these by show of hands <i>all in favour:</i> unanimous <i>against:</i> none <i>abstentions:</i> none</p> <p>Current Executive Committee Members Continuing GJ confirmed that the following executive committee members remaining are; 1) Lacey Baxter (550) 2) Glyn Savage (431) 3) Pippa Holliday (573) 4) Cathy Hussein (661) 5) John Matthews (377) 6) Janet Lloyd (718)</p>

		<p>GJ asked for confirmation of acceptance of these by show of hands <i>all in favour: unanimous</i> <i>against: none</i> <i>abstentions: none</i></p> <p>Jill Wells is standing down from the Committee and since the agenda was posted, Mu Gurbutt has announced her retirement from the Committee.</p> <p>Any volunteers from the floor?</p>
7 Constitutional Changes	GJ	No constitutional changes are proposed.
8 Proposed Motions	GJ	No motions submitted
9 Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Members of the Executive Committee	GJ	<p>Retiring Executive Committee Members</p> <p>A vote of thanks was presented to the retiring executive committee members by Graham Jermyn, Chair.</p> <p>Mu Gurbutt who has excelled at producing speakers for the monthly meetings and organising Christmas events and Convenor meetings.</p> <p>Jill Wells who has served on the committee for a year and has produced valuable work regarding the publicity of groups.</p> <p>The audience showed their appreciation by a round of applause.</p>
AOB	GJ	Marjorie Brown (227) mentioned that Irene Squirrel had been ill and the U3A should send her some flowers to wish her well.

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

END OF MINUTES