

BENFLEET
University of the Third Age



TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Held At 2pm on Tuesday 26th September 2023
at Richmond Hall, Benfleet**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed 85 members, both Full and SIM, to the AGM meeting.

The Agenda for this AGM had been circulated ahead of the meeting to all members together with copies of the 2022 Minutes and the Accounts for 2022/2023 which have also been provided at this meeting.

Committee Members Present:

Marion Coleman, Shirley Wolfe, Jim Wolfe, Rina Monro, Sandra Bedwell, Alan Aldridge, Robert Munson, Denise Phipps, Ian Phipps, Lee King.

1. Apologies for Absence from Committee Members

Suzanne Worland

2. Minutes of Benfleet U3A AGM held on 27th September 2022

3. Matters Arising from Minutes:

The Chair asked members whether there were any questions, and there were no matters arising.

4. Acceptance of Minutes

Proposer:	<i>Sheila Sears</i>	Votes for:	<i>Unanimous</i>
Seconder:	<i>Shirley Wolfe</i>	Votes against:	<i>None</i>
		Abstentions:	<i>None</i>

5. Chairman's Report:

This has been another really good year for Benfleet u3a. Our numbers have remained about 300 with a slight drop at renewal time, as with every year, which has been followed by a steady flow of new members joining. We are able to offer Full membership to most of those wanting it within a year of joining. Our SIMs members, many of whom choose not to become Full members, remain fully active in all our groups. The dual membership system seems to work for us and indeed, many other u3a groups around the country appear to be adopting a similar system.

Our groups have continued to develop both in number and variety, including new groups, such as Play Reading or putting Wrongs to Rights which are flourishing. Suzanne continues to do a magnificent job supporting and encouraging our Group Contacts and I would like to thank both her for all she does. In May, we again had a lovely afternoon tea for all our Group Contacts and Committee to say 'Thank You' for all they do.

With Covid no longer having such an effect on our normal activities, The Bulletin issue has reverted to every three months but remains vibrant and full of information and photos about all our activities, thanks to Alan's hard work on both this and our excellent Website. (We are still looking for someone to come forward to help with this and No! you don't have to be a committee member to do so!) Thanks also to all of you who regularly send him your contributions as without those there would be nothing to report!

Events, like our very successful 60's dance night show just how well our members can enjoy themselves. If you missed it, look back at all the photos on line and see what fun was had. Indeed, the website should be your first port of call to see what everyone has been up to around and about in their groups.

Bob continues to efficiently manage our membership data base and does an excellent job each year handling all our renewals. His SIMs newsletters form another link with members. Without Rina, our Treasurer, and Sandra, our Secretary, it would be impossible to run our u3a as well as we do. They both do excellent jobs balancing the books, recording minutes and keeping us up to date on all Charity Commission Rules and National Office Guidance.

Ian And Denise took over the daunting task of organising all our outings and have run a great programme this year taking us all to places old and new. Lee and Jim are very busy committee members too, stepping up whenever anything needs doing and both play a valuable supporting role. Lastly, Shirley, our Vice Chair, took over the booking of speakers from me last year and has done an amazing job with a great programme of speakers booked for the coming year.

So, you see I have had a great team supporting me as Chair, and although I am standing down after four years at the helm, I know they will continue to support the new Chair. I shall miss them all but know now is the time to step aside and let others continue to develop the u3a ethos of Live, Laugh and Learn within our wonderful Benfleet u3a.

Marion Coleman

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 The Chair informed the members that there had been one member's query regarding the Financial statement. This related to a loan made to the S&R account in November 2020 to cover deposits retained by venues for trips cancelled during the Covid. Once the trips restarted and those deposits used, the loan was repaid to the main account during the 2022-23 financial year. The Chair had explained this to the member who had been satisfied with the response.

6.2 Treasurer Rina – everyone should have received a copy of the Year's Accounts to 30th June and she hoped everything was clear, but if anyone should need an explanation she would go through it with them.

6.3 Since the end of the year we have received £413.82 from Riviera Travel and when Rina enquired about this was told that if any U3A Member books their holidays with them, Riviera would make a donation to ourselves. This sum will be in next year's accounts.

7. Benfleet U3A Accounts 2022/2023

Clouders have been appointed as an independent examiner of the accounts

Acceptance of Accounts

Proposer:	<i>Pat Cluness</i>	Votes for:	<i>Unanimous</i>
Seconder:	<i>Jenny Brown</i>	Votes against:	<i>None</i>
		Abstentions:	<i>None</i>

8. Election of Committee Members

8.1 *Nominations for the position of Chair*

The following nomination has been received:

Nominee: Fred Simpkins

Proposer: Peter Wiggans
Seconder: Barbara Webb

Votes for: *Unanimous*

Against: *Nil*

Abstentions: *Nil*

8.2 *No other Nominations*

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Questions from Members

None

11. *A presentation was made to Chair Marion from the Committee and Members by Shirley Wolfe thanking Marion for staying on for an extra year and doing such a great and conscientious job.*

12. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.10 pm

(To be signed and dated when approved by the members at the AGM in September 2024)

Signed: _____(Chair) Dated: _____