

BRIXWORTH & DISTRICT



MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2022

- PRESENT** Belinda Collett (Chair), Tim Smith (Treasurer), Sue Dodds-Smith (Secretary), Joan Edney (Membership Secretary), John Nicholson (Webmaster), Chris Rowe (Newsletter and Archive Secretary) Margaret Griffiths (Speaker Secretary). 64 members were present.
- 1. APOLOGIES** Anne & Chris Hudson, Alison George, Jenny Chapman, Juliette Keeping, Jim Wardle, Paula & Barry Norton, Allan BurrIDGE, Jenny Croft, Tim & Mary Parker, Ann Galpin, Anne Plackett, Tricia Stewart, Graham and Chris Pratt, Chris & Stuart Billington, Dulcie Amos, Chris Laukaitis, Jill & Graham Onley
- 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**
Copies of the Minutes were previously circulated to the membership by email. The motion to agree the Minutes were a true record was proposed by Annie Curtis and seconded by Rob Womack and they were signed by the chair, placed on file, and will be put on the website.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING**
No matters arising
- 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Well, how quick has this year gone?

As for the Brixworth & District u3a, we have had another good year, with our membership increasing, and new activity groups being added to the list. On 23rd April this year, we held our first open day on a Saturday, which was very successful, not only in attracting new members to join us, but many group leaders also had a number of people interested in signing up for what they had to offer. So, I would like to thank those group leaders who kindly took the time to set up tables that day, to advertise what Brixworth & District u3a can offer members of our local community, and to let you know that we will be having another Saturday open day in 2023.

The first Christmas Lunch after Covid, was a super day out, thanks to Yvonne and Tim Swallow, who kindly arranged it all for us, and it was a great opportunity for me to make myself known to those of you who were not sure who I am. I am pleased to announce that this year's Christmas Lunch will again be arranged by Yvonne and Tim and will take place at the Harlestone Golf Club on Wednesday 14th December. So, a big thank to them, in advance, for taking this on for a second year.

Our annual August day out at the Northampton Sailing Club once again achieved a high attendance by the members, who enjoyed the day chatting to each other over the meal, with the usual boat trips on the reservoir, plus the addition of a jazz band in the afternoon. I know some people were caught out on the boat when the rain came down but, despite this, they appeared in good spirits on their return so, whilst being very wet, it did not seem to dampen their spirits too much. And as you will have seen in the newsletter, the prize for the best tie and earrings went to Allan BurrIDGE and Lesley Bletsoe-Brown, Allan for the tie obviously!

We have to thank to our Treasurer Tim Smith for organising the event this year, which was probably the tenth consecutive years we have been there, excluding the lockdown years. This has therefore raised the question, not only by the committee, but amongst the members, that perhaps now is the time to consider doing something different for the 2023 August Meeting. I am sure there are many things that we could do, without travelling too far afield. So, if you could come up with some suggestions, we would be very pleased to consider them. What you have to say, is very important to us.

The real heart and soul of our u3a is through the group activities that we have to offer, which requires a dedicated team of group leaders, whose hard work behind the scenes, ensures their continued success. It is the group leaders who form the backbone of the u3a, so we owe them a big gratitude of thanks for what they do.

On the days of our monthly meetings, we still have members who are working to make our Wednesday afternoons an enjoyable experience, and they are Judy Smith, and her stand-in Jan Nicholson, with the raffle, and of course Jane Slinn and her tea ladies, who provide the refreshments. And it is good to see members sitting around the recently introduced tables in the smaller room, enjoying a chat, a drink, and nibbles. So, thank you to all of you.

At this point I would like to thank the Committee for all their continuous hard work over the past year, which is reflected by the increase in the membership. I would like to welcome onto the Committee Joan Edney, our new Membership Secretary, and to also

thank Maggie Wall for her time on the Committee in that same role. Hazel Wilson has also stepped down this year, after over ten years on the Committee, so thank you Hazel for your help and support. It was also the end of another decade of service, when Christine Pratt retired from her role as Newsletter Editor. There was hardly a proper newsletter in place when Chris took it on and, over the years she has set the standard and quality that we have today, now in the hands of Chris Rowe. Brixworth & District u3a therefore have a great deal to thank Chris Pratt for, in particular, keeping us well informed during the lockdown. So, a very big thank you Chris, and enjoy your retirement, you deserve it.

Also performing an outstanding role is Margaret Griffiths in providing us with our monthly guest speakers, and then we have Jill Onley who represents our u3a on the village hall committee, and also John Nicholson who keeps our website up to date. So, thank you to all three of you.

I now come to the two hardest working members of your committee, our Treasurer Tim Smith and Business Secretary Sue Dodds-Smith. Managing the finances is never an easy job, ensuring that we stay within the financial constraints for a charity, reporting our year-end accounts to u3a National Office, including gathering in all of the group finances at the end of each year. Hardly a day goes by, without Tim needing to do something concerning our finances. So, a very big thank you Tim, for all you do.

Lastly, and very importantly, I have to acknowledge the unseen work that Sue Dodds-Smith does for our u3a, virtually on a daily basis. I fully appreciate everything she does for us behind the scenes, as my husband Brian was the previous holder of that role and know how busy he was with it. Furthermore, Sue is also a great help and support to me personally, so it is a huge heartfelt thank you for everything you do, not just for me, but the whole of Brixworth & District u3a.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Tim Smith presented the audited and final accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 and asked for any questions. There being no questions, Annie Curtis proposed, and Rob Womack seconded the motion that the accounts be accepted. Carried unanimously.

The Treasurer proposed that the subscription fee for next year should be increased to £16, explaining the reasons behind the decision. Annie Curtis proposed, and Rob Womack seconded the motion that resolution be accepted. Carried unanimously.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Having completed and submitted the necessary nominations papers Tim Smith was elected as Treasurer.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Having completed and submitted the necessary nominations papers Joan Idney, Jacqueline Bird and Chris Rowe were elected to the committee.

8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.

The motion to appoint Ian Barrett as Auditor for the coming year was carried unanimously.

9. ANY MOTIONS PUT FORWARD

No motions were put forward.

10. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT AGM

6th September 2023

Belinda Ellett
06-09-23