

CATERHAM AND DISTRICT u3a . ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Administrative Secretary's Report.

There have been 6 committee meetings this year plus other meetings relating to our Open Day and this AGM.

Earlier in the year I did my best to bring the Register of Assets up to date. Not easy !

Each year, the Third Age Trust (TAT) holds an AGM and individual u3a's are invited to attend and register votes on behalf of their members. This year there were some important proposals, and we thought that our members might be interested to see how we cast our votes on your behalf. The meeting was held on 6th October 2022 at 11.30 am in Milton Keynes, but also on Zoom. I attended via Zoom. As a branch, we had 3 votes in the election of Directors and passing of resolutions

There was only one nomination for the position of Vice Chair, Mr. Alan Walmsley who was therefore elected unopposed.

There were two important resolutions, 5 & 6 , with several amendments to each , regarding the proposed increase to the annual membership fee paid by member u3a's to the Third Age Trust. Previously called Capitation Charge. If Resolution 5 was defeated, the Trust proposed Resolution 6.

Both these resolutions concluded, "and each year thereafter, by an amount based on the UK's State Pension increase." It was this part of the resolutions that appeared to be unacceptable to the members of a large number of branches.

With all the voting on the resolutions and amendments completed (22 Separate Votes), it was declared that neither the resolutions, nor any of the amendments were passed by the meeting. Unless further specific action is taken, there will be no increases at all to the annual membership subscription which each local u3a pays to the Third Age Trust.

During this year the committee have worked on Branch Policies and Procedures relating to Safeguarding, Complaints and Disciplinary and Code of Conduct. We were able to use draft templates provided by the Third Age Trust for a large amount of guidance. We were greatly assisted by Sheila Frost our Welfare Officer. These documents are now shown on our Website.

On a lighter note, it was agreed by the committee that we would purchase/sponsor trees through the existing u3a woodland scheme to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the u3a, and our branches 36th year. The woodland is situated on the England/Wales border in the Brecon Beacons National Park. Skilled arborists based in the Brecon Beacons National Park will be looking after the trees for the next 12 years, until they are established. We will not own the trees as such, but we have a certificate to confirm that we "planted" 10 trees.

Finally, please don't forget to visit and use our excellent Website. It is full of information and has easy links to Groups, Events, Newsletters and pretty much everything. Even I can find my way around, and make good use of it.