

**Minutes of AGM held at the
Laura Trott Centre at 2.15pm on Thursday, 27th April 2023**

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| Stephen Sell (SS) Chair | Lesley Casson (LC) Group Coordinator |
| Stewart Walter (SW2) Vice Chair | John Durrant (JD) Events Coordinator |
| Rob Scott (RS) Treasurer | Andy Smith (AS) Committee Member |
| Christine Dugdale (CD) Membership Secretary | Malcolm Luff (ML) Committee Member |
| Christine Luff (CL) Secretary | Frank Sluter (FS) Co-opted member |
| Jean Wardrop (JW) RUG Coordinator | Heather Douglas (HD) Co-opted member |
| Stewart Wagstaff (SW) Asst. Programme Editor | Vanessa Lucas (VL) Co-opted member |
| Sue Allum (SA) Speaker Secretary | |

1. Apologies: Peter Harris

2. Minutes of the previous AGM held in March 2022 agreed.

3. Matters Arising from the previous AGM

None.

Minutes Accepted:

Proposer: Phillip THORNTON

Seconder: Pat DIXON

4. Chairman's Report:

Cheshunt u3a, now in our thirteenth year, continues to be a vibrant organisation to which so many members voluntarily give their time organising activities, arranging meetings, and dealing with all the administration requirements to make it run smoothly. Our membership numbers have seen strong growth following the pandemic and now exceed the level we were at in March 2020. As at March 2023 we have well in excess of 700 members.

I would like to thank all those members who continue to lead our extensive range of groups. I would especially like to thank those members who have replaced the previous leaders of groups where the previous leaders have been forced to step down due to health issues or for other reasons. The group leaders make their own decisions, and we can only offer the opportunities that those leaders are prepared to take on. If a group is full or does not operate the way that you want it to then do, please step forward yourself and start up a separate group. We continue to participate in a Group Sharing Agreement with several other local u3as that gives members the opportunity to enjoy further activities not usually provided by Cheshunt u3a.

As usual our monthly talks have covered all manner of things. We have been entertained by a butler to the royals, a retired Chartered Engineer, a spymaster and a retired Headteacher. Talks have covered Lasting Powers of Attorney, maritime heroes, highwaymen, and book publishing.

When our u3a started we held meetings in Wolsey Hall. However, the local Council were set on its closure, despite the representations made by your committee. We moved to the Laura Trott Centre because there is not another venue large enough for our meetings in the Cheshunt area. However, we must accept that we now use what is a multi-purpose Hall that is really designed for sports activities. We have overcome the sound issues by investing in our own equipment and I must thank Stewart Walter, our Vice Chair for controlling the sound system at our meetings. The extremes of temperature in the Hall at certain times of the year is however not easily resolved. In the Winter it will be impossible to warm such a large area sufficiently in time for our meetings. Similarly, in the Summer if we get extreme temperatures the Sports Hall will be very warm and there is only so much we can do to provide ventilation; unfortunately, air conditioning is not installed in the Sports Hall. I can only recommend that you dress accordingly and bear in mind that the meeting only lasts a couple of hours.

As a committee we feel it is important to maintain links with other local organisations so at the monthly meetings, along with the regular interest and group tables, we offer local community groups the opportunity to highlight their activities. These have included Cheshunt Fire Service, Park Run, and Three Valleys Male Choir. As well as providing information for our members it also makes others aware of what we do and the interests we have.

According to the Third Age Trust website nationally there are more than 1,000 u3as with more than 430,000 members. Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of the Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement. The Trust reported that the u3a turned 40 years old in 2022 and that it is '*fit for the future!*' All u3as are encouraged to hold special events to raise the profile of our organisation. We are very grateful to Jacqui Fry for organising our stand at Tesco Brookfield Centre on 21st September 2022. The event was very well supported and helped encourage new members. Music was kindly provided by the A Team, a band of musicians that traces its formation to the Jazz Orchestra of Cheshunt u3a along with partnership arrangements with other u3a groups along the A10 corridor.

Cheshunt u3a could not operate successfully without the dedication and commitment shown by all of those serving on your committee and I thank them for all the unseen work they take on throughout the year.

Along with the committee I would also like to thank the Group Leaders who do such a good job in organising the activities so much enjoyed by the members.

We remain grateful for the support we receive from the staff here at the Laura Trott centre. They have worked with us ever since we were forced to move from Wolsey Hall in 2018, providing us with storage facilities and setting up the Sports Hall in accordance with our specifications. We have also called upon their First Aid support on several occasions.

And finally, every member plays a part in making this a pleasant and vibrant organisation to be part of. It is run by the members for the members, and I believe that this collective spirit will ensure

Cheshunt u3a continues to be a place people want to come to enjoy activities, make friends and help make it fun for everyone..

There were no questions relating to the chairman's report.

Approval proposed by Doreen FARRELL, seconded by Val PASCAL

5. Treasurer's Annual Report to 31st October 2021:

Good afternoon everyone,

2022 was the first full year for our u3a of getting back to normality after the lockdowns and the dreaded COVID pandemic, although frighteningly, as we all know it is still out there.

Our membership at the end of the financial year was 692, giving us a slight increase in funds over 2021 and the income generated by the sales of books, puzzles, raffles and refreshments brought in additional revenue.

However, because of the ramifications of 2021 we have had a far greater increase in payments this year, which has led to an excess of payments over receipts, but fortunately, we still remain very healthy at the bank.

I would just like to touch on a question that was put to a committee member at last month's meeting, about why the accounts have been presented to the members 6 months late. We originally held our AGM in January each year, but due to the loss of membership activities during the pandemic, the committee took the decision to extend our membership year to the 31st March and at the same time have the AGM in the same month in 2022. However, it was later felt that membership renewals in March would cause a problem this year with the running of the AGM, so it was put back to April.

This concludes my report and I welcome any questions from members.

There were no questions relating to the Treasurer's report.

Approval proposed by Steve GOLLOP, seconded by June BUNTEN

The Treasurer then presented a case to propose an increase to the cost of annual membership to £15.00 from April 2024.

Proposed: Bob CLARK Seconded: Steve GOLLOP

Proposal was carried by a show of hands

6. Election of Committee members

Lesley Casson was stepping down. On behalf of the committee and the U3A membership, Steve Sell gave a vote of thanks to Lesley for all her work on the committee since 2010.

The following members were elected to the committee unopposed:

Stewart Walter - Vice- Chair. Proposed Sue Allum, seconded Lesley Casson

Frank Sluter - Groups Coordinator. Proposed Jean Wardrop, seconded Christine Dugdale

Heather Douglas - Committee Member. Proposed by Stewart Walter, seconded by Christine Luff

Andy Smith - Committee Member. Proposed by Malcolm Luff, seconded by Christine Luff

Vanessa Lucas - Assistant Program Editor, Proposed Stewart Walter, seconded Stewart Wagstaff.

7. AOB

No items raised.

The meeting closed at 14.30

Our next AGM will be held on Thursday 25th April 2024 (subject to confirmation)