

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Coventry Sherbourne u3a Committee

Held on Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 2.00pm

Present: Anne Tithecott (Chair), Bill Day, Maureen Day (Sec), Joy Copeland, Ann Karabinas, Chris Porch, Jenny Smith, Pip Friel, John Karabinas (Treasurer), 53 members and 6 visitors.

Apologies: Ness Makepeace, Maureen Fox-Dowden, Elizabeth Akeister

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meetings were agreed by the members and signed by the Chair.

Chair's Report

The Chairwoman, Anne Tithecott, welcomed everyone to the u3a Annual General Meeting.

To summarise the key points:

Despite Covid still being with us, the year since the last AGM has been a positive one. We have welcomed new members to our monthly meetings and the interest groups are all up and running, including the new afternoon quiz which has proved popular. I wish that more members would attend some of our interest groups, or volunteer to start and lead new groups linked to their interests, hobbies, and knowledge. These do not have to run every month.

Whilst on the subject of volunteering, there are still 2 vacancies on the committee. The current committee has been in place for some years and without them the u3a could not function. If anyone has had more time to think about offering their services, they would be warmly welcomed as a co-opted member of the committee.

2022 was the 40th Anniversary of the u3a movement and this was celebrated in the city with a 5-day exhibition over 3 venues and in conjunction with the other u3a's in Coventry. This was successful in raising the profile of the u3a and led to some new members.

A National competition was held to make a 40th Anniversary quilt and one of our members, Chris, entered a quilt square which was incorporated in the finished quilt and is now on display in Witney.

In May we had an indoor party to celebrate the u3a's 40th birthday and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We have had a variety of speakers at our monthly meetings ranging from a Magician to Lady Godiva and the "Green Man" with poetry and music.

Finally, I would like to thank the tea ladies – Jean, Carole, Clare and Liz; Janet for running the raffle; Phil & Jill for running the book and jigsaw stall and Rita for sending out cards to those in poor health. I would also like to give a big thank you to all the group leaders and also those members who help and support the committee on an ad hoc basis, your support is very welcome. Last but not least, I thank the committee for the non-stop work every month.

Approval of the Chairwoman's report was obtained.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer, John Karabinas, gave a review of the years income & Expenditure and produced a spreadsheet for members to view.

The main source of income is from the subscription fee which had to be raised to £20 earlier in the year (as agreed by members) due to an increase in the rent of the hall and other sundries. The entrance fee was also raised by 50p to £1.50. We have managed to keep the speaker fees down by asking some of our members to give talks, which have been excellent, but must report that the fee for a speaker has been rising. There is still money in the account that is ring fenced for specific interest groups. We did receive a grant from the National u3a to help set up the joint Coventry u3a exhibition and this was received into our account and then divided between us and the other 2 Coventry u3a's to pay for the hire of rooms and other sundries. The current balance is quite healthy at £3573.49 but we still have the annual subscription to pay to the National Office.

The accounts have been audited by Mr J Hone who has agreed to continue in the role in the future.

Approval of the Treasurer's report was obtained.

Approval to appoint Mr J Hone as auditor for 2023 was obtained.

Future increases in fees

The committee give notice that there may be the need to raise the annual membership fee and the monthly door fee in the future.

Election of Officers and Committee members

All committee members have agreed to stay on in their current roles. Chris Porch and Pip Friels 3 year term of office has come to an end but they have both received a nomination, been proposed and seconded and agree to stand for a further 3 years.

AOB

None

The Annual General Meeting Closed at 2.20pm