

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Coventry Sherbourne u3a**  
**Held on Thursday 3rd February 2022 at 2.00pm**

**Present:** Bill Day (Chairman), Maureen Day (Sec), Anne Tithecott, Joy Copeland, Ann Karabinas (Treasurer), John Karabinas, Jenny Smith, Pip Friel, Marion Hodgkins

**Apologies:** Tonessa Makepeace, Chris Porch

**Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by the members and signed by the Chairman.

**Chair's Report**

The Chairman, Bill Day, welcomed the members, in person, to the u3a Annual General Meeting.

To summarise the key points:

*This was the second successive year to be blighted by Covid, and I consider myself quite unfortunate to have served my term in office in such trying circumstances. I have completed my term of office and will be stepping down. The Committee has continued to do its utmost to remain in touch with members and to put on a programme remotely or outdoors until we were able to resume normal monthly meetings in September. It's difficult to know what effect Covid has had on our membership of 2022, particularly as those who paid for 2020 had their subscription extended to cover 2021 without further charge. As far as we can tell, the numbers who have left seem to be at the level we experienced before the pandemic, and we thank you for your loyalty. Recently we have seen a number of new and prospective members, which bodes well, and we are doing our best to make them feel welcome.*

*I feel quite upbeat about the year ahead. Most of our interest groups are meeting again and although those activities involving bus and rail journeys might take a little longer to re-establish, we hope it will not be long before we can offer a full programme. We will, of course, continue to exercise an appropriate level of caution whilst recognising we will have to learn to live with this virus. Everyone can play a part by helping to start a new group linked to your hobbies, interests and knowledge or supporting one which is established. We are a self-help group organisation, and we all need to play our part.*

*2022 is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the movement and we aim to make a big splash. Despite having over 430,000 members, many people don't know about us. We want to raise awareness of the u3a and what we offer, but also want to showcase positive ageing and ensure retired people have a voice in society. We still have the City of Culture events happening and we have our own contribution taking place in May, when we are putting on a "Celebration of Coventry's u3a's" in 3 venues cross the city.*

*Finally, there are several people I would like to thank. Firstly, there is the Committee, who gave up their time to meet regularly over the last year, making decisions which were not always straightforward and consistently gave me their support. I would like to single out those who have stepped down from the Committee and given invaluable service, Marion Hodgkins and Mike Copeland; and those stepping down as officers, but remaining on the Committee – Ann Karabinas, who has gone above and beyond in her 5 years as Treasurer; Joy Copeland, who has done a superb job as Speaker Secretary for many years; and John Karabinas who is stepping down as Membership Secretary. I must also mention Ness Makepeace for her wonderful work in producing a newsletter every month. For much of the year it was a mini-magazine and the keystone in keeping in touch with our members. I must also mention those who do valuable work behind the scenes – group leaders, those who help at monthly meetings with refreshments and stalls and Rita Heal who lets members in poor health know that we are thinking about them.*

*Finally, thank you for letting me be your chairman for the last 2 years.*

Approval of the Chairman's report was obtained.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Ann Karabinas, produced a report, the key points of which are summarised below:

*As you can see, I haven't had much to do again this year. This was why I agreed to remain in post until this AGM though my tenure should only have been for 4 years and should have ended at the 2021 AGM. I hope to remain on the Committee but as Membership Secretary not Treasurer.*

*Obviously 2021, like 2020, was a strange year for us all. We took the decision not to take any membership subscriptions in 2021 from members who had paid for 2020. During this time the focus holding us together was Ness's excellent expanded Newsletter which she continued to edit until we were able to meet again in September. Luckily, once back we were able to carry on up to and including the December meeting. However, we still had*

*substantial outgoings, the largest of these being the u3a membership subscription payable on your behalf to the National body, The Third Age Trust. This totalled £290.50 because we had to pay £3.50 for each of the 83 members registered to us for 2020. This fee covers insurance for meetings and trips etc along with our contribution to the cost of running the national Third Age Trust office. For 2022 this annual fee will rise to £4 per member.*

*We had 90 members in 2019, 83 members in 2020 and 85 in 2021. We have lost 7 members due to bereavement, health issues, and change of address etc. but have also gained some new members.*

*Further expenses include room hire at £45 per month. This was only for November and December as the Community Centre allowed us to hire the room free of charge for September and October, a total of £90. Our total Expenditure for 2021 was £720.01 and consists of room hire, subscription fees, ink for printing Newsletters and the Christmas quiz, quiz prizes, mince pies, biscuits, tins of chocolate and paper cups used at the November and December meeting and, also at today's. We will revert to china cups at the next meeting.*

*Income for 2021 was £494.90. On behalf of our u3a, Bill applied for a grant of £100 from the Regional Third Age Trust for a u3a Day event held in June at Caludon Park. This amount was fully utilised and largely covered the expenses of the day such as posters, laminators etc. The grant and related expenditure was 'ring fenced' solely for the purpose of promoting our u3a and is not reflected in the annual Financial Statement.*

*We still have money in the account which is 'ring fenced for the History Group, Culture Vultures and Trips/Visits which total £169.51. This means we have £2,523.35 available for the general use of Coventry Sherbourne u3a.*

*Unfortunately, due to an increase in costs, we must raise our Membership Subscription to £17 for 2022 and may possibly have to do so again next year. Associate Membership (for members of other u3a's) will remain at £5 and the entrance fee at monthly meetings will stay at £1.*

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

Approval of the Treasurer's report was obtained.

Approval to appoint Mr J Hone as auditor for 2022 was obtained.

#### **Approval of Increase to Annual Membership for 2022**

Members were informed that due to the increase in prices, especially for Speakers, it was necessary to increase the Annual membership fee from £15 to £17.

This was approved by the members.

#### **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

All candidates, having been proposed and seconded prior to the AGM and with only one candidate for each officer vacancy, were duly elected unopposed:

Anne Tithecott was elected as Chairwoman; John Karabinas was elected as Treasurer and re-elected to the Committee for 3 years; Maureen Day was elected as Secretary and Bill Day was elected as Vice-Chair and re-elected to the Committee for 3 years. There are 2 vacancies on the committee, but no new nominations were received.

#### **AOB**

None

#### **New Chairwoman**

Anne said that she would prefer her official title to be 'Chairwoman'.

Anne gave a big thank you to Bill for his hard work over the past 2 years during such challenging times and said that the use of Zoom had kept the committee together and allowed some activities to continue. She also thanked Joy & Mike for getting Zoom Coffee mornings off the ground at the beginning of lockdown. Bill has also been the liaison officer with other u3a's and the National and Regional Office and following discussion with the incoming Chairwoman, agreed to continue to undertake this role.

**The Annual General Meeting Closed at 2.30pm.**