

U3A Cranleigh & District Area

Minutes of the Twenty First Annual General Meeting held in Cranleigh Village Hall on Tuesday October 29 October 2019 at 2.00pm

Present: Committee - Jane Barker (Chair), Margaret Anderson, Maggie Atkins, Hilary Ball, Brian Birchall, Angela Hardman, Martin Hayton, Jennifer Marty, Barbara White; Chairman designate Veronica Barnard, Committee members designate Don Henderson and Caroline Todman. Members - approximately 75.

Apologies for Absence: Debbie Annett-Bateman, Jackie Avery, Jane Beadman, Pauline Beeching, Derek Bonham, Michael and Dianna Bonoy, Shirley Boycott, Sheila Brown, Bob and Coral Callard, Pip and Jean Calvert, Elaine Collier, Pat Coxon, Anne Davis, John Dolden, Maureen Drake, John Fairs, Robin and Val Fawkner-Corbett, Trina Filskow, Gill Ford, Margaret Franklin, Marguerite Gibb, Christine Gimber, Marion and Roy Glasper, John Greenwood, Heather Head, David and Rosemary Hickman, Tony Hodge, Bob Horn, Christina Kaye, Hans Main, Belinda Martin, Sue Martin, Mike Payne, Barbara Pearce, Brian Pettyfer, Jane Rawlings, John and Hazel Reader, Jackie Rubie, Dominique Sol, Pauline Thakore, Roger Townsend, Charlotte Way, Jan West.

Chairman Jane Barker opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the Committee.

1. Minutes of AGM held on 30 October 2018:

The minutes were approved and accepted unanimously (Proposer Sue Kariuki, Seconder Sue Fleeson).

2. Chairman's Report for the period 1 September 2018 - 31 August 2018:

Chairman Jane Barker began by paying tribute to Committee Member Nigel Sloman who had sadly died in June. He had joined the Management Committee in 2012 and his contribution was much appreciated. He had also been the Outings Group Treasurer for more than a decade and had led the Bowls Group for 9 years, enabling many members to learn and enjoy the game. He was sorely missed.

2018/19 had been another successful year with 962 members registered, 133 of whom were new members. More than fifty interest groups were offered with meetings taking place in eight venues around Cranleigh. Two new interest groups had been offered - a MOTO Group led by Jutta Anderson, where members had attended 12 very varied events ranging from a visit to Wisley Gardens and Loseley Xmas Fair to an evening concert at the Japanese school in Rudgwick; group members also met regularly to play cards and board games. The second new group was a Ukulele Progression group which built on the success of the Beginners Group which had been started by Robin Chapman the previous year. She had been delighted that this group joined with members of the Surrey Hills Ukulele Band to help celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Cranleigh & District U3A this time last year.

She congratulated Maggie Atkins and her team for organizing such a varied Outings programme last year, with visits ranging from Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, Highgrove and Kew Gardens to a tour of Lords Cricket Ground.

Open Day in August had been very successful with quite a number of new members deciding to join on the day. Thanks to the excellent room plans, the decision not to continue using the overhead signage did not seem to cause a problem. Thanks were given to the membership renewal team, Group Leaders and the tea ladies.

In September the New Members Coffee Morning had been very well attended.

Martin Hayton was thanked for adding the day-to-day management of the Outings Group accounts to his role as Treasurer. Fellow Committee Members were thanked for their unstinting support over the last three years, and Jane was sure that Veronica Barnard (Chairman designate) would be able to count on their support in the future.

3. Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2018:

(A copy of the Accounts had been circulated to members the previous week and further copies were available at the AGM)

Treasurer Martin Hayton began by thanking Roy Glasper for inspecting all the accounts, and the late Nigel Sloman who had prepared so thoroughly the Outings Accounts, the responsibility for which he had now taken over.

Some key points regarding the 2018/19 accounts were that Income was up 16% (£8,798) almost entirely as a result of an £8,844 (31%) increase in income from Outings, with 19 outings in 2018/19 compared to 15 in the previous year. Expenditure was also up by 17% (£9,556) with Outings again being the main contributor, up £8,396 (29%).

The Surplus was down to £821, with the Surplus excluding Outings being £354, down from £1,560 in the previous year. The Outings organisers were congratulated on achieving a surplus of £467, meaning an average surplus of just £25 per outing.

Reserves were up 2% (£821) to £34,716 - still too high, even though Subscriptions were reduced from £20 to £18 three years ago. The aim long term was to allow Reserves to fall to an amount equal to 50% of Annual Expenditure excluding Outings and Groups, plus a "float" of about £4-5,000 for Outings - i.e. a figure of about £17,000 at today's prices.

The latest reduction of the Membership Subscription, from £18 to £16, will reduce annual income by about £2,250, so it was expected that a deficit would be shown in the 2019/20 accounts; this would allow reserves to gradually fall towards the target level, at which point, of course, there would be a need to increase the Membership Subscription again.

There was one question from the floor from Anthony Brearley, who asked why the analysis of Expenses from Group Activities in Note 1 only covered a small proportion (about 6%) of the U3A's non-Outings expenses, and wondered if a fuller analysis could be given, for example including allocation of hall hire fees to the various groups. Martin Hayton explained that this note was intended to report income directly received and expenses directly incurred by Groups only, and that trying to allocate expenditure across all groups incurring hall hire fees might prove too complex and burdensome. However, he thanked Anthony for the question and said he would look into this further.

The Statement of Accounts was approved unanimously (Proposer Richard Chaundy, Seconder Jean Bonham).

4. Election of Officers:

Seven members of the existing Management Committee were willing to stand for re-election: Jennifer Marty (Secretary), Martin Hayton (Treasurer), Hilary Ball (Membership Secretary), Angela Hardman (Group Leader Coordinator & Publicity), Maggie Atkins (Outings Leader), Barbara White (Newsletter Editor) and Brian Birchall.

They were proposed by Roger Dobbing and seconded by David Shelton and re-elected unanimously.

As the Chairman had stood down, the Secretary took over as Chair. She thanked **Margaret Anderson** for her 12 years as Group Leader Coordinator, a role which she had made her own, injecting it with good humour, reliability and competence from beginning to end. She had been a central figure on the Committee, always adopting a pragmatic and positive approach. Fortunately Margaret was remaining a member of the Outings Committee and continuing teaching her Bridge Class.

Jane Barker, retiring Chairman, was thanked for her 10 years of Service on the Committee, as Treasurer for six years from 2010 and Chairman from 2016. She had been an excellent Treasurer and an outstanding Chairman, deftly finding a solution to all the problems that inevitably arose in an organisation with more than 950 members and 50 different groups. And always with calmness, humour and a very "hands-on" approach. The Committee were delighted that she would stay on the Committee as a co-opted member for a short while to help with the handover.

Both retiring officers were presented with gifts and thanked by all present.

It was proposed that Veronica Barnard, Caroline Todman and Don Henderson be elected onto the Committee, with Veronica being the new Chairman. They were proposed by Jean Bonham and seconded by Hazel Winser and elected unanimously, and the Committee agreed unanimously and welcomed them onto the Committee. All were wished well in their future posts. It was announced that the Committee had co-opted Jane Barker onto the Committee for a short while to help with the handover.

5. Any Other Business: There was none

The meeting was followed by a fascinating and inspiring presentation given by Alan Doig, a Community Ambassador for the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street

Jennifer Marty, Hon. Secretary

October 30 2019