



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
CRAWLEY**

Registered Charity No. 1029004

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Friary Hall, Crawley

Friday 8th November 2019

Present: Maureen Wicks (Chair), George Redgrave (Vice Chair), Phil Light (Treasurer), Isabel Baker (Groups Coordinator) Jean Elmer (Events Coordinator), Jan Morris (Communications) and other Crawley U3A members: Total attendance: 92

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

Maureen Wicks welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the meeting was quorate. Apologies had been received from Janet Boniface, Elizabeth and Kim Robinson, John Wynter, Sue Snelling, Chris and Ann Simpkins, Marie Pincus, Anita Wright (Secretary), Jean Austen, David and Maggie King, Anne Finlay, Heather Greenhough, Clive Morris, Jenny Connell, Angela Brown, Shelagh Smith

2. Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 12th October 2018

These were confirmed as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

4. Annual Report for the financial year to 31 July 2019

a. Chair's report.

Maureen's last year as chair had been a successful one which she said couldn't have been achieved without the help of the Committee (George, Phil, Anita (retiring), Isabel (Retiring), David (Retiring) Jean and Jan). The Welfare Team had done a brilliant job supporting members who were unwell or who had suffered bereavement. She thanked the Painting and Drawing Group for providing the templates for the cards the Welfare Team use. She thanked Maggie Berrill for her work as SUN rep and Outings Coordinator and thanked the non-Committee members, Stuart (Web site administrator), Anne Thorn (Beacon Administrator) and the RUGs. She thanked the Group Leaders as our U3A couldn't function without them and gave especial thanks to the many long-standing leaders especially those who had been in post for ten or more years.

b. Treasurer's report.

Phil reported that the finances are in good shape with a large surplus. The Committee has been looking at ways to reduce the surplus; we are restricted in how we spend this money as we are a charity. Project 57 aimed to increase our membership and diversity and although our collaboration with Chichester University produced some

good ideas there were concerns that we did not have sufficient groups and leaders at the current time.

As the income from group subs provides the bulk of our surplus, it had been decided to reduce group subs and this will continue for some time. We also propose to reduce the annual membership fee. This will be discussed by the new committee and members will be advised of the outcome.

c. Approval of the Annual Report and Accounts.

Approval of the Annual Report and Accounts was proposed by Glynis Mills, seconded by Tony Liddell and agreed.

d. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts.

Blake Allnat have changed their name to ASBA. The proposition to continue with this company was proposed by Reg Thirkettle, seconded by Beryl Wise and agreed.

e. SUN report.

Maggie gave more information about the forthcoming study days. November's Viennese Joy and Parisian Pleasure had 4 Crawley members attending. December in Boxgrove was about Da Vinci's life and a case study of his paintings. January is Music and Nature in Hailsham about how composers represent nature in their work. February is Landscapes of SE England in Pulborough and their diversity.

Study days cost £8 for members and Maggie will try to liaise with members to share transport. Forms are on the website.

A request had been submitted to hold the Study Days in Crawley and a topic suggested and it was hoped this could be arranged for next year.

5. Election of Officers

a. Chair. George Redgrave was proposed by Mary Mayne, seconded by Doug Mayne and also by Clive Morris seconded by Jim McGough and elected.

b. Vice Chair Jim McGough was proposed by Janet Sully, seconded by Janet Copeland and elected.

c. Secretary Alan Pay was nominated by Pam Wilson, seconded by Maureen Bufton and also nominated by Mary Plaistow seconded by Denise Stubbs and elected.

d. Treasurer. Phil Light had agreed to remain in post for a further year.

6. Election of Committee Members

a. Membership Secretary. Ann and Stuart Sole were nominated by Ruth Clothier seconded by Anne Finlay and elected. They are unable to take up the role until January so David King would remain in post until then.

b. Events Coordinator and Communications Coordinator Jean Elmer and Jan Morris would remain in post for a further year.

c. Groups Coordinator. No nominations had been received. This is a vital role and we may not function properly without one. It can be split into 2 or more roles. Members were urged to consider standing for the role.

7. Group Leaders

There is always a need for group leaders especially when longstanding groups have to fold when a leader steps down. Phil stated that it's always a good idea to have a deputy leader and treasurer and reiterated that in most groups members have the same knowledge and interest as the leader and that groups often run in a leader's absence.

Joan runs the poetry group starting by doing the teas, then acting treasurer before becoming leader by default when no one else volunteered. She considers it a privilege to run the group. Jo stated that she did not like the word leader as it implies a superiority that doesn't exist. A different name could encourage more people to stand.

Maureen confirmed that all group members are equal and added that the Third Age Trust wanted to remove the term Group Leaders, preferring group convenors.

Jean Elmer said she started as Speaker Liaison and her role gradually expanded to include the RUGs whom she thanked for all their work and asked more members to join.

8. AOB

- a. **Christmas Social 13th December** Tickets are limited to 120 people for Health and Safety reasons. Please apply using the form on the back of the recent magazine. No tickets will be sold on the door.
- b. **Falls Prevention Course.** This is being run by the Red Cross on 21st January at St Pauls from 11-1 and is free. More participants are needed or the course will be cancelled.
- c. **U3A name.** The Third Age Trust has rebranded to remove University from its title as complaints had been received that this puts people off. We are now simply known as U3A.
- d. **Diversity of membership.** A member remarked that our membership does not reflect the diversity of Crawley. The Committee have been working hard to change this and have reached out to the community and attended several organizations' events to spread the word but without response. We also have extended our publicity. This is a nationwide issue. It was suggested that we could share outings with ethnic minority groups.
- e. **Change of name of Group Leaders.** It was suggested that this should be changed to attract more volunteers. In a show of hands 15 were for, 4 against and the remainder of the hall did not mind either way. This would be discussed by the new Committee and brought to a future Group Leaders' meeting
- f. **Thanks** There was a presentation and vote of thanks to retiring members of the Committee.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3.30pm followed by tea and a performance by the U3A Ukulele group.