

DERBY U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Thursday, 30th July, 2020, at 2.00pm. By Zoom.

Present: The meeting was attended by 27 members, 56 members voted by post or online.

Apologies: Kevin Cullen, Duncan Smith, Pauline Smith, Monica Hewitt, Anne Wannjie, Gill Deeming.

Welcome: John Whiteman welcomed members to the meeting and explained the use of Zoom facilities for taking part and voting.

Minutes: The minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were approved, proposed by Sue Thorne, seconded by Malcolm Warner.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report: This had been circulated prior to the meeting.

“ Over the past 12 months Derby U3A has seen growth, both in membership numbers and in the range of activities open to members. Many thanks go to our new membership secretary, Elaine Wright, for her hard work in this office.

The number of interest groups has also increased, with the addition of Chess, Writing for Pleasure, and shortly, Mindfulness. We now have 44 groups, the highest number ever. We are very grateful to, and totally dependant on, our group organisers, who are the foundation stones of Derby U3A.

One of the important elements of U3A life is the monthly General Meeting. After many years of devoted service our speaker organiser, Margaret Winfield, retired. The position was taken over by Malcolm Warner, who continues to provide us with a variety of interesting and entertaining speakers. Suggestions for future topics and speakers are always welcome and should be passed on to Malcolm.

General Meetings run smoothly due to our willing helpers, Gill and Sue on the door, Helen meeting and greeting visitors, Christine, Linda and several others who provide refreshments, and many others who help in a variety of ways.

Another activity deserving mention is the coach outings. Eight successful outings took place over the last year, to a wide variety of locations. Thanks to Sue Swain for her work in organising these. Bits and Pieces continues to keep our members informed about current activities. Our thanks to Jayne Thornton who compiles and edits it.

The Committee has met regularly during the year to ensure that groups and members are supported and new requirements from the Third Age Trust and government are implemented. We did not have any major upheavals to deal with this year but we did produce and revise some policy documents, as well as producing a Derby U3A Handbook (available on the website) to summarise how the organisation works.

Thanks to John Whiteman, who has continued in his role as Chair to manage us effectively, and to Malcolm Hopton who, in his role as Vice-Chair, has taken over on a few occasions. Jane Ward resigned from the Committee for personal reasons and Malcolm Warner took on the role of Minutes Secretary. Thanks to both, as well as Val Pickard.

We would particularly like to thank Sue Thorne for her service as our publicity officer, where she has been promoting Derby U3A at outside events. She is retiring from the committee this year.

Our finances continue to prosper under Paul Sandford's management. He will make his own report after this and I would like to thank him for his work. Our special thanks to Peter Illsley, who acts as our accounts examiner, ensuring that your money is spent properly, wisely, and well.

We decided to produce another Annual Review this year to promote our activities. I edited this and would like to thank Group Organisers and others who contributed, and also Dennis and Anita Jowle who proof read it. The plan, initially, was to produce only a digital version but we decided that a

printed version would be good for promotional purposes. It has been emailed to all our members who use email, it is available on our website, and some copies are available.”

Chair’s Response: Also circulated.

“I want to thank Catherine Wykes for her report on 2019/2020, and to add my thanks to her, to the other members of the committee, group organisers, and all those who, in one way or another, have helped to make Derby U3A run smoothly.

As regards the position Derby U3A is in, I make no apologies for repeating what I wrote in Bits and Pieces recently about the need for new committee members, and what will happen in 11 months time if nothing is done about it, No nominations were received for last month’s scheduled AGM to replace two members of the committee who have or are leaving. The constitution of Derby U3A requires a minimum of 5 committee members and a maximum of 12. In the absence of any nominations the ongoing situation is a committee of 8, which is permissible but not ideal. If this situation remains unchanged by the time of the AGM in March 2021 this number will become 4, since 4 members will stand down having served their permitted terms. Moreover, as things stand, the position of Chair and Secretary will be vacant, and under charities law these have to be filled. The arithmetic speaks for itself. A committee of 4 is unconstitutional, and a committee without Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer (who have to be different people) fails to comply with Charity Commission regulations. In those circumstances Derby U3A will have to find a solution or close down.

The solution is for members to come forward and be co-opted, so that in 11 months time we have enough people in place with experience of how the U3A works to carry on where those standing down have left off, with as much continuity as possible.

If any member feels he or she has the ability to step forward and meet this challenge you will be most welcome as a co-opted member of the committee, and only need to speak, or communicate this to any member of the committee.”

Financial Report and Accounts for year to 31 December 2019: These had been previously circulated and Paul Sandford added the following report.

“I am very grateful to my colleagues on the committee for their support and understanding. It feels to me that we are working as an effective team. I am grateful to all the membership for the money paid into the account, especially when it is made clear what for and by whom.

The surplus on the main account was £3517.51 of which about half (£1725.40) was gifts, almost all from Riviers Travel, for which we are most grateful. These windfalls could not be anticipated because they are not under our control and they obviously will not be repeated during the lockdown. We cannot, therefore, use them to plan for the future, but intend instead to fund significant capital items.

The social account had a small deficit of £50.30.

As a committee we have decided to leave the membership subscriptions and attendance fees unchanged, because we do not yet know what the costs will be after the move to the new CURC building.

During the lockdown there have been no attendance fees coming in and no venue hire costs, so at present the accounts are effectively at a standstill. Because we normally subsidise venue hire out of membership subscriptions we can anticipate a surplus for 2020. The resulting net saving will probably be approximately the amount we might have received as gifts.

I formally propose that we adopt the Annual Financial Report and Accounts for 2019.”

The accounts and report for 2019 were agreed, proposed Paul Sandford, seconded Dennis Jowle.

Election of Officers and Committee Members: As there were no other nominations it was agreed to elect these en bloc. Proposed Val Pickard, seconded Malcolm Hopton and passed with no objections. Chair John Whiteman, Secretary Catherine Wykes, Treasurer Paul Sandford.

Committee: Elaine Wright, Malcolm Warner, Sue Swain, Val Pickard. David Fildes agreed to be co-opted.

Any Other Business: As there was no other business the formal meeting was closed. Following the meetings there were questions to the committee from members on Zoom.