

DERBY U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, at 1.30pm. By Zoom.

**Present:** The meeting was attended by 50 members on Zoom. A total of 49 members voted by post or online. Of the zoom attendees, 16 were eligible to vote at the meeting, having not previously voted. The meeting being quorate the Chairman opened the meeting.

**Apologies:** Adrian Featherstone, Linda Naylor, 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 2020 Annual General Meeting were approved, proposed by Catherine Wykes, seconded by Elaine Wright. 62 in favour, 3 abstentions.

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's Report:** 'This has been a very strange year. At the beginning of March 2020 we were preparing for the AGM and had circulated documents to members. We were also working on the transition to the new CURC building. We had a new Annual Review all ready to be available at the meeting. By the end of March we were in lockdown and life as we knew it had ground to a halt. All face-to-face meetings and activities ceased. However, we quickly got going in setting up Zoom meetings (I hadn't heard of zoom before this), and gradually nearly all the groups which previously held face-to-face meetings inside were meeting regularly on the same schedule as previously. Indeed, many groups which didn't normally meet in August and December did so on Zoom. Many of our members, however, could not participate in these meetings, either because they did not have the technology or were not comfortable with it, but for those who could, it was a great improvement on not having any meetings. Outside activities ground to a halt, although some groups got going for a little while when the lockdown rules were relaxed but had to stop again. One group even managed a few face-to-face indoor meetings. We had two new groups set up – Ad Hoc Art and Getting started on the Ukelele. Some groups provided newsletters from their groups for general distribution.

The committee has continued to meet using Zoom, and we were able to hold a delayed AGM using Zoom, which had excellent participation. We also started up general meetings in January and they have been going very well.

We kept in touch with all our members with our newsletter, Bits and Pieces, which was emailed to members on the internet, and posted to those who were not. I have to admit to being a bit surprised that some members complained about not being kept informed about what we were doing but did not read Bits and Pieces.

As always, I would like to thank everyone who has helped to keep us going during the pandemic - committee members, group organisers, members who attended meetings, members who responded to voting and survey forms by email and by post, and also to our Bits and Pieces editor. Thank you also to our left-out members who have stayed with us in the fervent hope that things will get better. There is some prospect now of being able to meet again in the not too distant future – fingers crossed everyone.

I would also like to pay tribute to the people who came before us, those who started up Derby u3a in 1985 and those who built it up over many years thereafter to help us get to where we are today – some of them are still active members.

Several members of the current committee are standing down this year because they have completed their allowed terms of service – these are Paul Sandford, Malcolm Warner, Sue Swain, Val Pickard and myself. Happily we have enough new people standing for the committee to replace

us so a big thank you to them. I have greatly enjoyed my time working for Derby u3a and I hope the new committee members also do so. I wish them the best of luck in taking us onward and upwards.'

Chair's Response:

'I would first like to thank Catherine Wykes for her report as Secretary, which has comprehensively coincided with what I would have said myself. It just leaves me to repeat 'thank you's to those who have kept Derby u3a going in unprecedented circumstances.

Some groups have found it either impractical or illegal to function at all, but still many group organisers have risen to the challenge and shown ingenuity and perseverance, and have got a good response from their members. So, I would like to express my own thanks to our group organisers. As the Secretary said, the committee has continued to meet regularly. This time last year we were concerned that with half the committee due to stand down there could be a problem right now, but I am glad to say we have resolved that and have an almost brand new committee ready to take over from today. This does not mean we will not miss those who have served their sentences. However, having spent the last six years devoting their time and energies to the u3a in their various roles, they deserve a break. I would like to thank them all for their support during my time as Chair, which also finishes today.

I would like to say a special thank you to Catherine Wykes, and I don't believe the others would begrudge me that. The fact is that Catherine has done so much in her roles as Chair, Secretary, Group Coordinator, Website manager, editor and distributor of Bits and Pieces and programme cards, and writer of various policy documents; and still found time to lead more than one activity group. Catherine is a very hard act to follow.

At this time it is customary to mention the names of those members who have died during the year. They are Barbara Walden in August, Malcolm Hopton in November and Anita O'Brien in January. I am sorry if I have omitted anyone, and if I have please put that right now.

I know this AGM has not yet formally appointed the new committee but, in hopeful anticipation, I wish them well for the next year, and trust that the next AGM will be held in more happy circumstances.'

Financial Report and Accounts for year to 31 December 2020: These had been previously circulated and Paul Sandford added the following report.

'This is my sixth and last presentation of Derby u3a accounts.

I wish to record my thanks to Pete Ilsley, our accounts examiner, for his support and guidance, to Bob Thorne and Daphne Mee, my predecessors as Treasurer, for their hard work in handing me the accounts in good order, to the committee for prudence in wise spending and to all of you for payment of membership subscriptions and attendance fees.

As you will appreciate 2020 has been a strange year with a reduction in attendance fees and donations from Riviera Travel, to offset by a reduction in room fees. The resulting surplus in the main account has dropped from £3,517.51 to £2,542.47. The accumulated surplus has enabled us to reduce the cost of renewing the membership subscription for 2021, as you will be aware.

Meanwhile we have transferred from "Business Online Banking" to "Business Internet Banking" while the Yorkshire Bank has latterly joined forces with Virgin Money. The practical implication of this has been that transactions can now be authenticated very quickly with a mobile phone.

As I hand over there is just one item that I need to record for posterity. On 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, I wrote a cheque for £45 to Joy Levandowstak for her talk at the general meeting on Theatrical Costumes. This has never been cashed and although I have tried every means to obtain her contact details I have failed, If she finds her old cheque we should honour it.

Finally, I want to thank you all for the trust you have placed in me as Treasurer and to wish the excellent incoming Treasurer and committee every success.

I formally propose that we adopt the Annual Financial Report and Accounts for 2020.

The proposal was passed unanimously.

Election of Officers and Committee Members: As there were no other nominations to those circulated it was agreed to elect these en bloc. David Fildes – Chair, Lesley Wells – Vice-Chair, Debra Thomas – Secretary, Elaine Wright – Treasurer, John Whiteman – Group Coordinator, Rob Swain and Liz Lockwood were elected unanimously.

Appointment of Examiner: The committee proposed the appointment of Mr Peter Ilsley as accounts examiner. Passed unanimously.

Approval of reduced membership subscription for the remainder of 2021: A fee of £5.00 was approved unanimously.

Amendment to the constitution: Following guidance from the Third Age Trust an amendment to the constitution to permit General Meetings to be held by electronic means was tabled. This had previously been circulated to the membership. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Any Other Business: The chair introduced the new committee to the meeting.

Sue Thorne proposed a vote of thanks to everyone on the committee, especially to the work of Catherine Wykes. This was seconded by Dennis and Anita Jowle.

The pop-up boards need collecting from Sue Thorne. Dennis Jowle asked about the new CURC building which is available for use when allowed.

Joy Lowe asked about payment of subscriptions which can be paid by cheque or by BACS.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.