



**Minutes East Renfrewshire u3a AGM 2023
Held on Wednesday 21 June 2023
At 2.00pm in Newton Mearns Parish Church**

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND ANNUAL REPORT

MM welcomed members to the AGM and hoped that they had had an opportunity to read the annual report. As a registered charity we are obliged to prove to both our members and OSCR that we are fulfilling our aims.

Our membership numbers are now at the same stage they were when we went into lockdown, however there is no significant rise in members coming from the G78 postcode despite holding monthly meetings in Barrhead.

Our report stated that 11 new groups have begun this year. In fact this should read 12 as we omitted the very popular Fashion through the Ages group.

Despite some excellent presentations at our monthly meetings, numbers attending these meetings remains around 10% of our total membership.

A very positive outcome of the lockdown years is that we are now in regular contact with our neighbouring u3as in particular Paisley, Glasgow Westend , Bearsden & Milngavie and, most recently the newly formed Glasgow Southside u3a.

Thank you again to all those who volunteer to run groups, to help in hospitality and those take up positions on the committee. I particularly wish to thank Allen Walker for his years on the committee. Allen has been a regular on the committee over the past 15 years.

2. MINUTES FROM AGM HELD ON 15 JUNE 2022

The Minutes from the 2022 AGM have been available on the website and were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2022/23

AS reported that the accounts had been posted on the website for a few weeks prior to the AGM and had been independently examined and approved.

Subscriptions and Gift Aid are the main sources of income. Gift Aid of £912 received in the current year relates to 2021-22. Gift Aid for year ending 2023 will be received in 2023-24 once approved by HMRC.

Groups requiring indoor accommodation were significantly increased due to the relaxing of Covid-19 regulations resulting in the Hire of Hall costs for the current year being £9724.

The reserve is still high at £18854. The recommended reserve level should be equivalent to 3 – 6 months expenditure, estimated as £4K to £8K. The reduction in reserves is not as high as projected due to an increase in membership from the 500 projected to 553 actual.

For the year 2022-2023 hall costs are projected to be circa £10,000. This does not allow for additional groups being created and if the increase in membership continues at the current rate additional accommodation will be required for new and/or larger groups.

From the subscription of £24, £8.35 is paid to Third Age Trust leaving £15.65 to cover all other expenses.

After much discussion the committee decided to maintain the subscription at the current level for the following reasons:

1. Due to the significantly increased room charges the current subscription level will not cover the operational costs but the reserve can offset the forthcoming years' deficits.
2. Due to increased membership larger rooms are required in many cases to accommodate greater group numbers.
3. Membership is still difficult to predict and the rate of increase may well slow down.
4. Subscriptions cannot be returned to members under the u3a constitution so a reduction in subscription would be required to reduce reserves. The Committee made the decision the reserve would be better used to offset costs in the next years to obviate reducing for a year then having to increase beyond the current level.

At the end of March 2023 there were 553 members. This compares with 485 in March 2022. Recovery from the drop in numbers during the Covid restrictions continues although it has been noticed that the rise is significantly greater in the east of the county whilst membership in the G78 postcode is less than 8% of our total membership and this is an issue that requires to be addressed.

5. TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID MILLER CA AS INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR THE ACCOUNTS 2023/2024

The appointment of David Miller CA as Independent Examiner for the accounts 2023/2024 was approved.

6. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE TRUSTEES FOR 2023/2024

The following appointments were approved:

Marbe McNeill
Lilias Dunlop
Teri McCormick
Robert Humphrey
Ann Scott
Allison Kershaw
Roy Bryce
Avril McAllister
Shirley Thorogood
Mary Fyfe
Susan Bulleid
Janet Stein

7. FORMAL CLOSURE OF THE AGM

Marbe McNeill thanked everyone for attending the AGM and for joining the celebrations of ERu3a's 15th anniversary.