

MINUTES OF THE EMS VALLEY U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Held in St James' Church Hall, Emsworth on Thursday 25 May 2017

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

Hazel Willard welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Sheila Morris, Anne Powell and John and Joan Harvey for making up the day's greeting team. After going through the emergency drill, she explained the running order of the meeting and pointed out that Copies of the Accounts, Trustee Report and Minutes of the Last Meeting were available for everyone to look at. She thanked the Croquet Group for setting up the hall and agreeing to doing the tea and Wendy Hardy and Jane Cassidy for ensuring refreshments were available at all General Meetings. She gave a brief run down of the entertainment to come after tea and said the business part of the meeting should last no longer than half an hour.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from, Jacky and Martin Delaporte, Evelyn and Tony Lister, Yvonne Copeland, Judy Milburn, Mike Thomas

2. **The Minutes of the 2016 AGM** were read out by VO and adopted as a true record - Proposed by Sheila Morris, seconded by Richard Swaine and approved unanimously.

3. **The Trustees Report** which was displayed for Members to read was accepted as correct - proposed by Ann Howell and seconded by Catherine Davis.

4. **Treasurer's Report** 10 copies of the Annual Accounts had been made available for members to read on arrival at the meeting. A slide was presented by Richard Galloway which highlighted the key items of Income and Expenditure. He revealed that we had managed to increase our reserves by £600. The importance of Gift Aid was stressed. A proposal that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as correct was made by Richard Swaine and seconded by Val Swarbrick. Dick Howell is Examiner of Accounts. David Lees was congratulated on his work in compiling the accounts.

5. **Nominations for Committee** VO announced the retirement of David Lees, Ann Newnham and Jackie Oiller from the committee and gave the names of the new members as John Blaber (Treasurer), Debbie Nichol and Jenny Wessendorff. All other members of the Committee were willing to stand again. This was accepted by a show of hands. Roses were presented to the retirees.

**Chairman's Report**

Hazel began by commenting that it was hard to realise that a year had passed since she was introduced as the new Chairman. She went on to mention some of the highlights of the past year, the 10th anniversary celebrations (the museum exhibition and the later Hog Roast), the many interesting speakers we had enjoyed and the Christmas lunch at Chichester college (to be repeated this December). She recounted that Group presentations had followed our Speakers and since June 2016 we had heard from 'Out with your camera', Astronomy, Bird watching, Jazz Appreciation, Geology, Art Appreciation, Croquet, Mah Jong, Literature, Cycling for fun, Architecture and Travellers' Tales – all arranged by Committee Member, Richard Swaine.

The Committee had also welcomed all group leaders and helpers to a social evening in October last year as well as offering a welcome coffee morning for new members in February this year. It was hoped that the welcome coffee morning would take place twice a year in future.

Earlier this year members had been asked how they would like to receive the Newsletter and the majority indicated they would like to receive it electronically, although a few preferred to receive a hard copy. Graham Taplin had been busy setting up an emailing system called 'MailChimp' and it was hoped that it would not be long before the Newsletters would be downloadable. Some Newsletters would be available at the General Meetings for those who prefer a hard copy.

Hazel went on to thank the hard working members of the committee without whom she said she could not do the job of Chairman. Thanks were also given to webmaster Dave McVitie for keeping the website up to date. She announced that Dave would like to stand down at the next AGM, so a replacement was being sought. She also thanked Jeff Thatcher, who provided IT support at General Meetings and is always ready to give helpful advice. He would also like to stand down and was happy to work with a new person. Steve Gorban, who was organising our U3A outings and the meeters and greeters and the members who make the teas every month and attend the General Meetings also received thanks.

New committee members, John Blaber (Treasurer) Debbie Nicol and Jenny Wessendorf and the new newsletter editor, Maggie Linnell were welcomed. The decision was announced that it had been decided that there would no longer be a waiting list. If numbers of attendees at general meetings swelled to beyond the capacity of the present hall a larger one would have to be sought.

Copy date for the next newsletter was announced and members directed to Maggie Linnell's email on the website. There was a request on behalf of David Smith of the Astronomy Group for new members.

Hazel told members that the U3A outing of 31 May had been cancelled and rescheduled for 5 September and reminded everyone that the subject of the speaker at the next general meeting would be Highclere Castle.

VO then announced entertainment would commence with a presentation from Jeff Thatcher on the subject of the anniversary celebrations, followed by Adrian Lovett from the 'Out with your Camera' Group'. After tea, Adrian Fox, from 'Travellers' Tales' was to tell us of a road trip from Vancouver to Yellowstone Park. The finale would be a quiz presented by Alan Borrow and devised by the 'Photography Group'.

Next AGM to be held on the fourth Thursday of May 2018.