

MINUTES OF EXE VALLEY AGM HELD AT THE TIVERTON FOOTBALL CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022 AT 2 PM

Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** June Gidney, Sally Butler, Phil and Rachael Hart, Janet Franklin, Catherine Makepeace, Sue and Alan Phillips, Lyn Mandale, Sue and David Dark, Jo Jeffrey, John and Dawn Hampshire, Nickie Haynes, Jean Barnett, Bunty Coffin, Vicki Stuckey, Chris Hammett

2. **Presentation and Adoption** of the minutes of last year's AGM were adopted.

Proposed: Marilyn Dawson, Seconded: Keith Dawson and approved by all with two abstentions.

3. **There were no matters arising**

4. **Chair's Report.**

(Two weeks ago, your Committee was in despair. Despite many exhortations, we were still three new members short, and if we could not find a new Chair, we would under Charity Commission rules, have to fold up our u3a. At the very last minute, to our enormous relief, volunteers have come forward, SO I CAN SAFELY TEAR UP THE DISSOLUTION SPEECH I WAS GOING TO MAKE...)

It has been another really extraordinary year, I hope that we can now safely say, like D H Lawrence, "Look, We Have Come Through". In the darkest days of Lockdown we, like so many other u3as, feared that membership would plummet, groups disband and funds dry up. Instead, as the fog clears, we find ourselves with 242 members (89 on our Facebook page), 30 groups (15 of which continued to meet on Zoom) and a healthy balance sheet, as our wonderful Treasurer Eric is about to describe.

We are all, I know, heartily sick of the purdah of Zoom meetings, and back in September we re-opened monthly meetings with our hearts on our mouths, (especially when our old laptop proved no match for the demands of hybrid meetings, which sadly had to be abandoned) only to have to re-zoom in December and January, but it was lovely to see at last month's Meeting, the first in our new venue of the Football Club, so many members delighting in once more meeting face to face (or mask to mask).

Sadly my much-trumpeted dream of a carnival u3aDay in June did not quite materialise as I had hoped, in a storm of rain and, dare one say it, apathy. But we managed to make some impact and gain useful publicity (thanks to our indefatigable Publicity officer Alan) in a reduced format, sharing posters and shelter on Lowman Green with Tiverton colleagues in a fun blue-and-yellow way (how convenient the Ukrainian flag was, and how tragic the association it now carries), and generating interest with a display in the Library. I drew some consolation from the fact that very few other Devon u3as even got this far.

On a more sombre note, we were all saddened to hear this year that the following members had passed away: Pat Lucy, Ann Howells, Jean Mallock and Brian West. All will be sadly missed.

So much of our successful survival, of course, is due to your wonderful Committee. Jill does a wonderful job of welcoming new members, maintaining name badges, wittily reminding us of meetings and generally disseminating information in a charming manner.

Treasurer Eric cannot be thanked enough, tirelessly managing to reconcile often mismatching balances and year definitions between Bank, Beacon and Spreadsheets, and successfully introducing cash-free payment through the new SumUp device.

Joan is really a maid of all work (if I am allowed such a term), keeping immaculate minutes, arranging a positive feast of Speakers even when some pull out at late notice, helping to organise skittles and gardening groups and generally keeping us all up to the mark. One of my favourite moments of the year was finding out that our Morris Dance Speakers, such a treat had we been meeting physically, were actually still great fun on Zoom.

We were very sad to lose Kathy as our Groups Leader mid-year, as she had been a wonderfully thoughtful and sensitive inspirer and gentle co-ordinator for many years. We were most grateful to Nickie for so ably and positively taking over this role (See, being on the Committee is not so very dreadful!).

The promised and much-heralded Beacon System update is still not with us, but Sue has kept up to date with all its confusing ramifications and inducted many into using this potentially very valuable tool. Sue and Alan have brought renewed energy to the Committee and will be missed as they stand down.

Jo has quietly and efficiently overseen the moves between zoomed and physical meetings (ask her about the Christmas mince pies!) as well as changes of venue, and ensured we were able to observe all the changing and confusing Covid precautions.

Hardest-working of all has been our marvellous new Secretary Marian, who took on this onerous job with complete confidence and authority, certainly making my own job very much easier.

Finally credit must go to our ever-present and unflappable Vice Chair Deborah, always a fount of good advice and knowledge, who so typically volunteered to patrol the Rugby Club last month to pick up those who had failed to log our change of venue (let's not mention the misdirected Speaker!)

BUT There are so many others who deserve recognition and thanks. Forgive me if I only mention a few, but we all owe a huge debt to Lynne for keeping the Newsletter going month after month in such a colourful and interesting way. Also Chris, who has maintained a large World History group as well as providing us with some intriguing quizzes. Especially Nigel, who has been a wonderful support and assistance on the technical front, and typically has stepped forward to edit the next two Newsletters.

Perhaps most perfectly embodying the spirit of the u3a though has been Wendy, who keeps our Website up to date and informative, but most notably also leads our MOTO group for those on their own – a coffee and lunch meeting group you should know has been widely copied across many other regions.

Thanks to these and all others who have so energetically and imaginatively kept their groups going, from Ray's Ramblers to Irene's discussers to Keith's artists and Chris's musicians,

who like the three Reading groups, managed to thrive on Zoom, to David's local historians, especially those Cherith Shantymen. Thanks to all of you, and especially our new Committee members, Exe Valley U3a is still here, in good shape and looking forward to a much more "normal" 2022. **Though I must point out that a few Groups are still searching for new Leaders, especially the Ramblers and World History.**

Proposed : Sue Robbins. Seconded : Michael Wragg. Approved by all

5. Treasurer's Report

EXE VALLEY U3A

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST 2021

RECEIPTS		2021	2020	PAYMENTS		2021	2020
1	Subscription	1128	1130	1	Venue & Speakers	-592	-527
2	Meeting Fees	251	316	2	Admin & Equipment	-683	-843
3	Gift Aid	147	378	3	Direct Mail	-32	-6
4	Events	50	772	4	Events	-17	-339
5	N/O - Tam - N/L	122	200	5	N/O & Capitation	-1022	-260
6	Donations	20	0	6	Other	-110	-777
TOTAL		1718	2796			-2456	-2752

BALANCE SHEET AT DECEMBER 31ST 2021

		2021	2020
	Receipts	1718	2796
	Payments	-2456	-2752
	SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-738	44
	Carried Forward	2830	2785
	TOTAL FUNDS AT YEAR END	2092	2829
		2021	2020
Current Assets	Balance at Bank Includes 2022 subs	3574	2639
	Cash in Hand	190	190
	TOTAL	3764	2829
Liabilities	Receipts in Advance	-1630	
	Cheques not Processed	-42	0
	NETT ASSETS	2092	2829

Bank balance includes 2022 subs paid in, in November and December 2021

Approved by the Membership of the Exe Valley U3A
At the Annual General Meeting on ????? March 2022

Signed.....Chair

Adoption of Accounts

**23 THE BRENDONS,
SAMPFORD PEVERELL,
TIVERTON,
DEVON
EX16 7BQ**

To: The chair, Exe Valley U3A

Re Exe Valley U3a Accounts 2021

As requested, I have undertaken an independent examination of your accounts for the Period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

I can confirm that the balances shown in the balance sheet for assets and liabilities and funds all reconcile to the analysis of receipts and payments and the bank statements.

I have also reviewed a sample of the prime records and reconciled the sample.

In my opinion, the financial statements represent a true and fair view of the activities of the group for the year under examination.

With kind regards



P. M. Clarke

Date 16/3/22

Proposed: Sue Robbins. Seconded: Irene Oakley. Approved by all.

6. Examiner of Accounts

Tim thanked Tricia Clarke for examining the accounts for us.

Vote of thanks to Tricia Clarke was proposed by Penny Prosser – all in favour.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chair – Mike Turner	Tim Dyke	Chris Hammett
Vice Chair – Deborah Lal	Sue Phillips	Alan Phillips
Treasurer – Eric Oakley	Philip Stuckey	Vicki Stuckey
Secretary - Marion Luck	Jackie Kingdom	Jean Barnett

Each was voted on separately and all in favour. Tim Welcomed the new members to the committee and thanked them for coming forward to support the Exe Valley U3A.

Committee Members were voted in en bloc and all were in favour

Joan Kelly	Susan Lyne	Diane Gardner
Jill Riddiford	Diane Gardner	Jean Barnett
Josephine Jeffrey	Sylvia Smith	Carolyn Holmes
Nickie Haynes	Alan Phillips	Sue Phillips
Carol Boote	David Meredith	Heather Meredith
Anne Bush	Steve Bush	Maggie Roberts.

Deborah Lal thanked Tim for his time and hard work over the past three years, in particular in seeing us through the pandemic via the use of Zoom. He was presented with a thank you gift and a card.

The meeting was closed and the next AGM will be on Wednesday 15 March 2023